MAY 1990
£1.25p I.R. £1.86p
SPAIN
475
Pesetas

WORLD SOCCER

The International Magazine

EURO FINALS SPECIAL

FREE
WORLD CUP
ALBUM
AND 8 CARDS

International results and scorers

ITALIA '90

LATEST ON THE TOP STARS

Polster Möller
Baggio Mazinho
Caniggia Ekstrom
Johnston Bilek
Van Basten Hagi
Careca Baresi
Barnes Rijkaard
Whelan Maradona
Mikhailichenko

EURO FINALS PREVIEW BY KEIR RADNEDGE

Milan favourites for the repeat

CHAMPIONS' CUP FINAL; Milan (holders) v Benfica, Vienna: May 23

MILAN are the finest team in the world.

Everyone says so. Opposing players and coaches. Fans. World Cup managers such as Brazil's Sebastiao Lazaroni.

Whether they can prove it yet again against Benfica is another matter. There will be no Roberto Donadoni, he is suspended after his quarter-final expulsion for retaliation against Mechelen. There may be Ruud Gullit, but probably not in the first half. Milan want him fully fit for next season. To expose the Dutch superstar to the European Cup-seeking defenders of Benfica would be asking for trouble.

On top of that Milan must rise to the occasion after a domestic which began to fall apart under intense pressure which saw them playing two matches a week virtually every week since the start of the year. Italian football's plans to leave a clear five weeks between league campaign and World Cup finals meant a fixture schedule which did the European champions no favours.

Some 27 years ago these two clubs met in this same final. Wembley was then the stage. The star names were Eusebio and Coluna and Torres for Benfica, Altafini, Rivera, Dino Sani and Trapattoni for Milan.

Eusebio shot Benfica into the lead. Then, midway through the first half, schemer Coluna was clumsily clogged by Gino Pivatelli – a midfielder surprisingly brought in at the last minute by Milan's tough old coach, Nereo Rocco, Pivatelli had been a lively centre forward in the mid-1950s. But his nastiest kick also proved the most effective of his career. With Coluna at half- pace, Benfica lost their grip and Milan seized the initiative.

The brilliance of Rivera and the two-goal opportunism of Altafini did the rest. Milan won 2-1. It was the first Italian triumph in the history of the Champions' Cup.

Milan celebrate Borgonovo's goal that booked their place in the Final.

Penalties

Benfica have been back several times since. They were losing finalists to Internazionale in 1965, to Manchester United in 1968 and to PSV Eindhoven two years ago. That 1988 final was decided on penalties after the most stultifying of matches. It was the worst European Champions' Cup final I have ever seen. Benfica were totally negative; PSV were overawed by the occasion.

Benfica looked creatively exciting in the first half of their quarter-final against Dnepr and again at times against Marseille in the semi-final. But it may be significant that, for all that, they scored only a bare handful of goals in both ties put together.

Centre forward Mats Magnusson has torn through defences in the Portuguese league. But the constant easy success to be found in Portugal presents the greatest problem for Benfica. Out in the Prater stadium, against Milan, they will be playing for the highest stakes under the greater pressure.

Portuguese rivals FC Porto surprised us all in this same match, in this same stadium, three years ago against Bayern Munich. But, for all Benfica's talent, and for all Milan's battle scars, another Italian victory looks the likeliest outcome.

A Vialli inspired Sampdoria reached their second successive Cup-Winners' Cup Final after victory over Monaco in the Semis.

EURO FINALS PREVIEW BY KEIR RADNEDGE

Milan favourites for the repeat

CHAMPIONS' CUP FINAL; Milan (holders) v Benfica, Vienna: May 23

MILAN are the finest team in the world.

Everyone says so. Opposing players and coaches. Fans. World Cup managers such as Brazil's Sebastiao Lazaroni.

Whether they can prove it yet again against Benfica is another matter. There will be no Roberto Donadoni, he is suspended after his quarter-final expulsion for retaliation against Mechelen. There may be Ruud Gullit, but probably not in the first half. Milan want him fully fit for next season. To expose the Dutch superstar to the European Cup-seeking defenders of Benfica would be asking for trouble.

On top of that Milan must rise to the occasion after a domestic which began to fall apart under intense pressure which saw them playing two matches a week virtually every week since the start of the year. Italian football's plans to leave a clear five weeks between league campaign and World Cup finals meant a fixture schedule which did the European champions no favours.

Some 27 years ago these two clubs met in this same final. Wembley was then the stage. The star names were Eusebio and Coluna and Torres for Benfica, Altafini, Rivera, Dino Sani and Trapattoni for Milan.

Eusebio shot Benfica into the lead. Then, midway through the first half, schemer Coluna was clumsily clogged by Gino Pivatelli – a midfielder surprisingly brought in at the last minute by Milan's tough old coach, Nereo Rocco, Pivatelli had been a lively centre forward in the mid-1950s. But his nastiest kick also proved the most effective of his career. With Coluna at half- pace, Benfica lost their grip and Milan seized the initiative.

The brilliance of Rivera and the two-goal opportunism of Altafini did the rest. Milan won 2-1. It was the first Italian triumph in the history of the Champions' Cup.

Milan celebrate Borgonovo's goal that booked their place in the Final.

Penalties

Benfica have been back several times since. They were losing finalists to Internazionale in 1965, to Manchester United in 1968 and to PSV Eindhoven two years ago. That 1988 final was decided on penalties after the most stultifying of matches. It was the worst European Champions' Cup final I have ever seen. Benfica were totally negative; PSV were overawed by the occasion.

Benfica looked creatively exciting in the first half of their quarter-final against Dnepr and again at times against Marseille in the semi-final. But it may be significant that, for all that, they scored only a bare handful of goals in both ties put together.

Centre forward Mats Magnusson has torn through defences in the Portuguese league. But the constant easy success to be found in Portugal presents the greatest problem for Benfica. Out in the Prater stadium, against Milan, they will be playing for the highest stakes under the greater pressure.

Portuguese rivals FC Porto surprised us all in this same match, in this same stadium, three years ago against Bayern Munich. But, for all Benfica's talent, and for all Milan's battle scars, another Italian victory looks the likeliest outcome.

A Vialli inspired Sampdoria reached their second successive Cup-Winners' Cup Final after victory over Monaco in the Semis.

Juventus bid for the first since Heysel

UEFA CUP FINAL: Juventus v Fiorentina, May 2 and 16

THE strength in depth of Italian football stands revealed by the success of the Zebras and the Viola in reaching the final of Europe's number three club event. Not only are neither of these clubs in the very top rank at home this past season – Napoli, Milan, Internazionale and Sampdoria all surely rate higher and better – but both have been plagued by internal problems.

Juventus, for example, attempt to repeat their 1977 UEFA Cup triumph with coach Dino Zoff having gone public in criticism of patron Gianni Agnelli; without a settled president; and with foreign stars Zavarov, Aleinikov and Rui Barros all uncertain whether they will still be in Turin at the end of next month.

Worrying

As for Fiorentina, they have not won a European crown since the very first Cup-winners' Cup in 1961 when they beat Glasgow Rangers in a two-leg final (the only one in the competition's history). This past season has seen them worrying more about the relegation zone than the championship race. A string of injuries and suspensions affected their form and contributed mightily to the dismissal, shortly before the UEFA Cup semi-final victory over Werder Bremen, of coach Bruno Giorgi.

Juventus' troubles began, really, when Michel Platini stepped out of the game in 1986. Juventus have wasted around £12 million trying to find the right men to replace him. Platini, himself, was less than decent when he recently criticised departed president Giampiero Boniperti of wasting money. A Platini comes along once in a generation; and, anyway, several of the most notable of Juve's purchases were dictated by owner Agnelli.

Soviet midfielder Sasha Zavarov was one of those. His failure to adapt consistently to Italian soccer may owe more to lifestyle problems than a football failure. Soviet World Cup partner Sergei Aleinikov was snatched away from Genoa's grasp to support him, but one season is nothing like enough time to test the idea – even if that is fall they will probably have been given.

Ironically Juve's best purchases, and their most potent weapons in the UEFA Cup Final, are little-known local buys in forwards 'Toto' Schillaci and Salvatore Casiraghi. Schillaci, called into the national team for a useful debut against Switzerland, might yet just squeeze into Azeglio Vicini's World Cup squad.

Fiorentina's Cup hopes lie with the erratic inspiration of Roberto Baggio. But he is, according to informed speculation, likely to join Juventus next season and spearhead a recast team alongside Germans Thomas Hassler and Stefan Reuter and coached by Gigi Maifredi.

With Baggio's mind maybe elsewhere and in the continuing absence of long-term Argentine injury victim Oscar Dertycia, Fiorentina's hopes look slim. Juventus could collect their first European crown since the tragic night of Heysel in 1985.

WE'RE ON TOP OF THE WORLD

THIS month's WORLD SOCCER is the most colourful, the most exciting and certainly the biggest selling issue in the 30 year history of the magazine.

A few months ago we promised to improve the quality of the magazine and give readers even more value for money, without losing any of the ingredients that have established WORLD SOCCER as THE most authoritative magazine on the international game.

This issue confirms that promise. We have not only brought you MORE colour, but for the first time in the magazine's history a FREE GIFT.

I am sure you will enjoy the superb 32 page pictorial and statistical history of the World Cup and the fabulous collection of great players that have been specially drawn by one of our best sports' artists.

You will have received the first eight World Cup Heroes this month. There will be eight more given away with the June issue and eight more in July.

Carefully cut out the cards each month and glue them in the correct space in the booklet.

When completed you will own a tremendous souvenir of the world's greatest soccer tournament.

And there's MORE good news for you. Also, in this issue you will find a coupon to apply for a FREE Merlin World Cup 90 sticker album PLUS SIX FREE stickers to kick-off your collection.

WORLD SOCCER is bound to be great demand from now on. The only way to ensure you don't miss any of the Free Gifts, or news of yet MORE exciting developments is to place a regular order with your newsagent, or complete the subscription coupon on page 63.

Support the magazine that's top of the world.

KEIR RADNEDGE – EDITOR

Belgians threaten

CUP-WINNERS' CUP FINAL: Anderlecht v Sampdoria, Gothenburg – May 9

SAMPDORIA can set up Italian football for a unique treble if they win in the Ullevi stadium. No country has ever cornered all three top European prizes in the same season. Italy have the best opportunity of any country for many a year. The UEFA Cup is certain to go to Italy; Sampdoria can win the Cup-winners' Cup; then Milan will be ready to round it all off in the final of the Champions' Cup.

Sampdoria are not the most exciting team to watch. Veteran coach Vujadin Boskov has built a team in all senses of the word. Few stars but lots of workers – and the one real star they do possess, Gianluca Vialli, is the man who makes the penalty box difference.

It was Vialli's away-leg goals which made the semi-final difference against Monaco. Similarly, it was with Vialli only half-fit that Sampdoria put up a comparatively weak challenge to Barcelona in the final in Bern last year.

Most of Sampdoria's line-up last time will be back again in Gothenburg. Gianluca Pagliuca has been in such fine form in goal that he will probably be Italy's third keeper at the World Cup; Yugoslav Srecko Katanec has brought an extra touch of skilled steel to midfield; and Vialli and Italy partner Roberto Mancini are dynamic and economical strikers.

The Cup-winners' Cup is vitally important to Mancini. He has faded from the national team ratings and a match-winning display would bring him right back into contention just in time for the World Cup.

Anderlecht are old stagers in the Cup-winners' Cup. They virtually made it their own property in the late 1970s. Not only that, but coach Aad de Mos steered Mechelen to this very title two years ago. The Belgians have a wily bunch of players and plenty of opportunist pace in attack with Degryse, Nilis and Van der Linden. Behind, Patrick Vervoort can smack a long-range drive through crowded penalty areas with the best of them.

A tight match could go either way. On paper Anderlecht are the better all-round contestants. But World Cup ambition might just drive Sampdoria to the heights.

NAPOLI'S TITLE

INSPIRED by the brilliant Diego Maradona and assisted by a hooligan coin-thrower, Napoli stormed back to pip Milan for the Italian league title.

The coin-thrower struck, decisively, ten minutes from the end of Napoli's visit to Atalanta. The match was heading for a goalless draw when Napoli's Brazilian midfielder, Alemao, was knocked down by a coin. He was helped off, Napoli protested to the federation and were duly awarded the match by 2-0 a tavolino, as is the Italian way.

That pulled them back level on points with Milan at the top. When Milan slumped 2-1 in an explosive match away to Verona – Rijkaard, Van Basten, Costacurts and coach Arrigo Sacchi were all sent off – Napoli serenely moved two points clear.

Milan were falling apart. They had appeared poised for a league-cup-European treble. Now, with the league slipping away, they lost 1-0 at home to Juventus in the second leg of the cup (and thus 1-0 on aggregate). Last Sunday, the last day of the season, saw Milan further discomfited by having to play their home game against Bari at Bergamo – since work had already started on ripping up the old pitch in the Stadio Meszza.

They overcame that handicap in superb style, by defeating Bari 4-0 with second-half goals from Borgomovo, Evani (two) and Donadoni). But Napoli were, meanwhile, defeating Lazio 1-0. Marco Barone scored the championship-winning goal after just six minutes.

At the other end of the table UEFA Cup finalists Fiorentina beat Atalanta 4-1 to escape relegation by one point.

WORLD SOCCER

The INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE

Editor
KEIR RADNEDGE

Managing Editor
PETER STEWART

Group Art Editor
STAN McDONALD

Editorial
071-261 5737

Advertisement Manager
DAVID J. SMITH

Advertising
071-261 5702

Fax
071-261 6019

MAY 1990
Vol. 30 No. 8

WORLD SOCCER UPDATE
0898-500-208

Milan's Van Basten jumps against the Bayern defence.

25th Floor
King's Reach Tower
Stamford Street
London SE1 9LS

WORLD SOCCER is published by the IPC Magazines Ltd. Origination and typesetting by Meridian Media Services Ltd, Peterborough. Printed by Thamesmouth, Basildon, Essex. Registered at the Post Office as a newspaper.

Copyright IPC Magazines Ltd.
Must not be sold at more than the recommended selling price shown on the cover.

CONTENTS

World Cup countdown 4-41
Brian Glanville 38-39
British News 44-45
European News 46-49
European Cup results 50-51
Diary 52-54
Report from South America 56-57
League results and tables 58-62

ITALIA'90 WORLD CUP COUNTDOWN

AUSTRIA GROUP A

Toni Polster shows his power against East Germany.

Polster is back in the fans' favour

BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

Austria's World Cup hopes rest on the striker who only some months ago was unloved by the fans, rejected by media experts and who was straining the patience of the national team manager Josef Hickersberger to the limits.

But Toni Polster confounded the critics when in the final and decisive qualifying match his hat-trick against East Germany put Austria in to the finals of Italia 90.

Yet, in his hour of triumph, Polster detached himself from his wildly celebrating team mates and ran first in to the dressing room. He was not interested in the ecstatic acclaim of the near 60,000 crowd demanding one victory lap after another. He couldn't forget how he had been attacked in the Press and greeted with whistles and boos by the fans before the kick-off. He felt humiliated by accusations that he had become too soft, self centred and too inconsistent.

Polster replied with a world class display and explained his hasty exit: "I didn't want to be a scapegoat if we had been unsuccessful. And I don't want to be a hero now we have qualified."

Independent

Anton "Toni" Polster was born on March 10, 1964 and was raised to be independent; as a six-year-old he would travel to school alone by tram across Vienna – a one hour journey. He soon developed an enthusiasm for football and was recommended by a scout to FK Austria at nine.

Father Anton, himself a first class forward in the 1960s with Rapid and Admira, encouraged him as a striker.

The football crazy Polster family then kept a full record of every goal young Toni scored. In his junior days they counted over 1,200! At 16, as the youngest player in the Austrian Under-21 club championship, he established a scoring record with 31 goals. But because team manager Erich Hof was not convinced he loaned Polster out for six months to SC Simmering whom he helped to promotion to the First Division. While there he completed his studies and became a qualified industrial salesman.

Returning to FK Austria in 1982, at 18, young Toni made an immediate impact in the first half of the season. He attracted the attention of the national team manager (again it was Erich Hof) and after just 13 league appearances he was called in to the national squad.

He marked his first international on November 17, 1982 by scoring the opening goal in a 4-0 win over Turkey in a European Championship qualifier. He helped FK Austria to eliminate Barcelona in the Cup-Winners' Cup quarter-final, before the Viennese lost to Real Madrid.

In 1986 the big brawny striker won the Bronze Boot for finishing third in the European league scorers with 33 goals. And in 1987 he hit 30 goals, only the Rumanian Rodion Camataru was more successful. But there were suspicions that Camataru had been helped towards his 44 goals by other teams' defenders, possibly on orders from higher authority.

Polster was so incensed that he refused to attend the presentation ceremony and did not accept his Silver Boot.

He always wanted to play abroad and would have liked to join Bayern Munich.

Eventually he signed in 1987 for Italy's Torino, for an Austrian record £1 million. But they later needed the money and suggested a move to Ascoli. Polster rebelled and went to Spain instead, to Sevilla. He is currently the second top scorer in their first division behind Real Madrid's prolific Mexican striker, Hugo Sanchez.

Now rumours are rife that Real Madrid and Barcelona, as well as three unnamed Italian clubs, are after him. But he is biding his time for in 1991 his contract expires and then, as a free agent, he can pick his club and cash in handsomely.

He claims that he always listened to coaches such as Ernst Dokupil (at Simmering) and Wenzel Halama (formerly with FK Austria) who exercised the greatest influence on his progress.

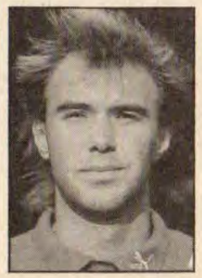
Polster says: "With Simmering I learned all about camaraderie, teamwork and the value of human relations. In Vienna I acquired the correct attitude as a professional."

Polster is a worthy successor to such great Austrian strikers of the past like Matthias Sindelar, the brilliant centre forward of the Wunderteam of the 1930s; Franz Binder, the scorer of an incredible 1,006 goals in first class soccer; and Hans Krankl, Austria's only winner of the Golden Boot for his 41 league goals for Rapid in 1978.

Clearly Polster's experience, speed, opportunism and lethal finishing will be invaluable assets in the World Cup. Only last autumn, after yet another bout of abuse from the "fans", he swore he "would never again play of Austria".

Now, that he is the hero of his native land, he is thinking of eventually returning to Vienna where on May 19, he will marry his long-standing girlfriend Elisabeth...

Klaus LINDENBERGER. Goalkeeper. Aged 33. FC Tirol Innsbruck. Began with Linzer ASK and was a reserve goalkeeper at the 1982 World Cup finals in Spain, making his international debut shortly before the finals in a 2-1 win over Czechoslovakia. Yet he had been first called into the squad three years earlier.



Gerhard RODAX. Forward. Aged 24. Admira Wacker. One of the new young hopes leading a domestic revival. Recalled by Hickersberger to the national squad after being forgotten following his debut against Yugoslavia in October, 1985. Top contender for this season's European Golden Boot.

Andreas HERZOG. Midfield/forward. Aged 21. Rapid Vienna. A Rapid youth product who did not start to match his potential until after he has been sent out on loan to neighbouring First Vienna. His fine form earned a national team call-up and Rapid, despite his own reluctance, forced Vienna to send him back.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA GROUP A

Bilek's double goal for Czechs

BY NICK BIDWELL

LAST November was a momentous month for Czechoslovakia midfield man and dead-ball exponent, Michal Bilek, of Sparta Prague.

First he helped his country secure the point they required for World Cup qualification courtesy of a hard-fought goalless draw in Portugal. Then alongside other players from Sparta and Dukla, Bilek entered the political arena to give support to the popular and successful demands for democracy in the country.

While national team and Sparta captain Ivan Hasek, addressed the massed crowds in Prague's Wenceslas Square, the unassuming Bilek attempted to stay out of the limelight. However, on being recognised, Czechoslovakia's current Footballer of the Year was encouraged to speak to the throng.

"I guaranteed the solidarity of footballers in our struggle for freedom as I am a great supporter of Havel (Czechoslovakia's new president)," he said later. "Havel was imprisoned for his belief in democracy and now we all owe him our thanks."

Stanislav Griga ... early penalty then sent off.

For Bilek and his international colleagues an appearance in Italia '90 is not merely an opportunity for sporting redemption after eight years' exile from the final stages of two European championships and the 1986 World Cup.

"We have missed too many major competitions in recent times," he says. "In our own small way, we want to help the 'new' Czechoslovakia with a good showing in Italy."

Since making a goalscoring debut against Poland in Bratislava back in October 1987, Bilek has maintained a strike rate which many an attacker would envy, finding the net eight times in 16 appearances. Certainly the 24-year-old, who can also perform at full-back, delivered the goods during the Czechs' inconspicuous passage to Italy, his four goals representing almost a third of his nation's output.

Home win

A strike to help defeat the part-timers from Luxembourg was followed by a most influential display in the 3-0 home win over Switzerland. Not satisfied with supplying a perfect cross for Tomas Skuhravy to head in the first goal, he crisply volleyed home the second.

Bilek was also to be the assassin of Portuguese World Cup dreams in the crucial East-West confrontation in Prague. He had already slotted in an early penalty, before the needless sending-off of Stanislav Griga appeared to have compromised Czech aspirations. Portugal finally made their numerical superiority pay to equalise, but in a moment of pure sporting drama, Bilek curled past Silvino a late free-kick winner from 20 yards of which Michel Platini would have been proud.

A highly-skilled, although somewhat fragile midfield prompter, his admirers are convinced that the damage he can wreak offensively far outweighs any lack of steel in his game. Therefore it is likely the World Cup will see Czech manager, Josef Venglos, position Bilek just behind the front-runner, leaving Hasek, PSV Eindhoven's Chovanec and Lubomir Moravcik to assume a more physical midfield brief.

Ex-Czech internationals hold no such reservations as to his talent. Former Dukla and national team star, Zdenek Nehoda, who is still playing in the Austrian fourth division, says: "Bilek has the skill in his feet which many people do not have in their hands."

Born on April 13, 1965, Bilek has spent all his footballing life at the Letna with Sparta Prague, where he has gained four league titles. Since making a first-team debut at 17, he has contributed much to Sparta's hegemony of the domestic scene, forming a quintet of established internationals with Hasek, Skuhravy and the since-departed Chovanec and Griga.

Recalling his earliest memories, Czechoslovakia's new hero remembers his father regularly taking him to watch Sparta, although his boyhood hero was Antonin Panenka of city rivals Bohemians. Like Panenka, whose relaxed demeanour and wickedly deceptive shooting ability from set-pieces perplexed many an opposing keeper, Bilek's talent at dead-ball situations has cast him as a latter-day free-kick wizard.

Face-to-face

"If I am successful with some of my free-kicks, it's because I have always tried to imitate him," he claims. Bilek only came face-to-face with Panenka a few months ago at a school on the outskirts of Prague, where both past and present stars had been invited to speak about soccer.

Czech pundits concede that Italy will dominate their opening World Cup group, leaving Austria and themselves to compete for second place. Bilek maintains that further progress will depend on solid contributions from all team members. The experience of foreign-based stars such as sweeper Kocian of St Pauli and Kubik and Knoflicek, will prove invaluable.

Michal Bilek may well be one of the few World Cup performers whose alter-ego is as a part-time technical college student, but the fact gives a refreshing insight into the realism of a young man who left school at 14 and is anxious to secure his post- football future.

On the other hand, some fine displays in Italy and a subsequent money-spinning move to the West might represent a more than viable alternative.

Josef CHOVANEC. Midfield. Aged 30. PSV Eindhoven (Holland) – whom he joined in 1989 to replace Barcelona-bound Ronald Koeman – Chovanec, who can also play sweeper, has been Footballer of the Year and his country's most consistent player after an upsetting start in a 5-1 defeat by West Germany in April, 1985.

Ivan HASEK. Midfield. Aged 26. Sparta – but has been on loan to Dukla Prague, the army team, while undertaking national service. Outstanding former double Footballer of the Year who starred in the 1983 World Youth Cup in Mexico. Made his senior international debut in September 1985 against Greece in Athens.

Tomas SKUHRAVY. Centre forward. Aged 24. Sparta. A member of the Czechoslovak team which finished runners-up to France in the 1983 European Youth final at Tottenham. Scored the goal with which Sparta surprisingly beat Real Madrid in Spain in the first round of the UEFA Cup in 1983-84.

Workhorse Di Napoli

BY NICK BIDWELL

AS the Italian nation look to its footballers to provide a sixth World Cup victory for the host nation, Naples midfield warrior Fernando De Napoli seems set to figure prominently in manager, Azeglio Vicini's plans for glory.

The tenacious and powerful De Napoli is a midfield grafter par excellence. In keeping with the redoubtable Italian tradition of defensive midfielders are epitomized by Romeo Benetti and Marco Tardelli, he is most adept at closing down opponents and is a fine tackler.

For the 25-year-old De Napoli this year's World Cup represents his second appearance in the final stages of football's premier tournament, after finding a somewhat unexpected place in Enzo Bearzot's team for the Mexico campaign.

De Napoli made his international debut as a second half substitute against China in Naples in May 1986 and subsequent good performances in training camp convinced Bearzot to promote the youngster ahead of Carlo Ancelotti, the veteran Tardelli and Beppe Baresi, to a spot in the Italian line-up for the tournament opener against Bulgaria.

Earthquake

'Nando' De Napoli was born on March 15, 1964 in the village of Chiusano di San Domenico, near Avellino – an area particularly devastated by the 1980 earthquake. At the age of 13, the football mad teenager joined his first club. Unione Sportive Nirgia, a team situated on the outskirts of Avellino.

Three years later he was recruited by Avellino, those perennial fighters against relegation from Italy's Serie A. But as is the custom with young players in Italian football, the summer of 1982 saw him loaned for a season to Rimini of the Third Division in order to gain more experience. Playing with the Adriatic club, De Napoli's technique and physical qualities flourished under the cerebral tutelage of now Milan supremo. Arrigo Saachi.

He recalls with nostalgia the warm and friendly atmosphere at Rimini and admits that he was reluctant to return to Avellino, where he thought only the junior team and occasional spell on the substitutes bench awaited him.

However return he did, and by virtue of Avellino's poor start to the 1983-84 term, the youngster was given his opportunity by then club boss, Ottavio Bianchi. Opponents on his debut in November 1983 were then champions Roma, including the multi-talented Falcao, Cerozo and Conti. A last minute goal from Aldo Maldera gave the Romans a 3-2 victory in the Stadio Climpico, but De Napoli kept his place for the remainder of the season, playing a typically fighting role as the club escaped relegation thanks to a draw at Juventus in the penultimate match.

Following two further seasons of outstanding play in a struggling team, the inevitable big-money transfer took him to Naples in the summer of 1986, where he rejoined coach Bianchi, who had placed his faith in the young player just three years previously.

Arguably the signing of the neo-international was the final piece of the first title-winning jigsaw for Naples. He immediately found a niche in the team's engine room alongside Maradona and fellow Italian cap Salvatore Ragni and to the delight of the supporters, Naples dominated the 1986-87 season from gun to tape.

How Baresi sweeps to glory

BY BRIAN GLANVILLE

RUNNER-UP to Marco Van Basten in the European Footballer of the Year Poll for 1989, it seems remarkable that Franco Baresi should have taken so long to win a regular place in the Italian national side, that he did not even take part in the 1986 World Cup; though his brother did, with mixed success.

Yet Franco's Italy debut was made as long ago as December 4, 1982. A somewhat inauspicious day for Italian football, to be sure, since the national team was held to a goalless draw in Florence by Rumania, in the European Championship.

Hindsight is a great counsellor. It is easy enough now, I suppose, to say that Baresi should have taken over from Gaetano Scirea much earlier, as Italy's sweeper.

By the 1986 World Cup, Scirea was some 33 years old, and dynamism – Baresi's greatest quality – was fading. Italy floundered; especially in the disastrous game at the Mexico Olympic Stadium against France when they were eliminated.

Manager Enzo Bearzot, who himself seemed to have lost his touch after two splendid World Cup tournaments, lost his nerve in the French match, and detailed Giuseppe Baresi to close-mark Michel Platini. It didn't work. The Italians crashed out of the Cup, and Bearzot was succeeded by Azeglio Vicini.

Schizo

Only now did Franco Baresi belatedly come into his own.

But this meant that he has had to lead an almost schizophrenic life; at least from the point of view of tactics. For Milan, at least since Nils Liedholm took over and introduced a four in a line defence, Franco has not been a sweeper at all, but a centre-back. With Italy, by contrast, he is still a sweeper; but what you might call a modern one, in the image of the great Franz Beckenbauer, who of course invented the attacking sweeper.

The Baresi brothers were born at Travagliato, up in the North, Giuseppe on February 2, 1958, Franco a couple of years later on May 8, 1960. There is what you might call a kind of perverse symmetry between them.

That is to say, Giuseppe was initially turned down by Milan, while Franco was rejected by Inter. Then Giuseppe signed for Inter, and Franco, eventually, for Milan.

Franco is not only the younger but the smaller. He stands 1.76 metres and weighs 70 kilos; otherwise 11 stone. Hardly a giant. He signed for Milan in 1976 but didn't get a League game in his first season.

In 1977-78, he got just one; on April 23, 1978, against Veroba. Milan won, at the Bentegod Stadium, 2-1. But then came the grand transformation. The following season, Baresi played all 30 games. He had arrived.

The following season, in the championship, he missed but a couple of games. But that was the season in which the president, Felice Colombo, in a moment of madness, bought a match against Lazio which Milan would probably have won in any case. Be sure your sin will find you out. It did, on this occasion. Milan were relegated to Division II, Serie B, but came back immediately. Baresi played 31 games that season.

In 1982, sad times, Milan were relegated again; on merit. In Serie B, the following season, Baresi played 30 games and permitted himself the luxury of scoring no fewer than four goals. He got another three the following season, in Serie A.

But if Colombo was a foolish and disastrous president, Giussy Farina was not much better. Moving from Vicenza, where he had made Paolo Rossi into a star, Farina was up to an infinity of tricks. Above all, or below all, he paid his players round the corner. Baresi was one of them. Thus it was that, in 1989, he found himself arraigned before a court, condemned to a (suspended) jail sentence, and fined severely, for receiving money which had not been declared.

You might say that he was simply ingenuous, rather than corrupt or greedy. It is hard to think ill of Baresi when you meet him; he is open, friendly, unpretentious. One of the world's best players; and Italy's inspiration.

Walter ZENGA. Goalkeeper. Aged 30. Internazionale. Inter youth product who was sent on loan to three lower division clubs before being recalled in 1982. Did not become Italy's No 1 until after the arrival of Azeglio Vicini as boss in 1986. Made his Italy debut in Bologna against Greece in October, 1986.

Paolo MALDINI. Left back. Aged 21. Milan. Son of Cesare Maldini, who was Milan's European Cup-winning captain in 1963 and is now assistant manager to Vicini. Maldini junior is one of the most promising young defenders in Europe. Made his Italy debut as a substitute in a goalless draw against Yugoslavia.

Roberto DONADONI. Midfield. Aged 26. Milan. Joined Milan from Atalanta in 1986 – the latest in a string of discoveries by the Bergamo club who included Gaetano Scirea and Marco Tardelli. His role as a deep-winger was one of the key factors in their thrilling league and European Champions' Cup successes.

Hole truth about Baggio

BAGGIOMANIA! Baggio Madness! cried a sports newspaper, after the little Fiorentina attacker had run rings around the Bulgarian defence last Autumn in Cesena.

Grudgingly, in his post match interview – having said he wanted to talk about his team, not any individual player – even Azeglio Vicini had to admit that Baggio had excelled.

This was partly because for once he was able to play where he best likes to: "in the hole," just behind the front pair of strikers; on that occasion, Vialli and Carnevale.

I saw that match, in which Baggio was quite coruscating. All his talents came into play; his exquisite balance, his pace, his flair, his superb ball control. He scored two goals, the first from the penalty spot. But even then, the shadow of another Roberto, Donadoni,hung over him. The Milan right winger wasn't fit to play.

That Donadoni is irreplaceable is beyond doubt. Though he plays deep on the right, he is in fact an "all court" attacking midfielder, with superb skills of his own, and an ability, as we saw at Wembley when Carnevale scored that dubiously disallowed goal, to split defences with a pass.

In the 2-0 home win by Milan over Malines, his talents were gloriously in evidence, and it was bitterly unfortunate that after being fouled so many times, he should at last lose his rag, strike an opponent, and get himself sent off.

As if to enable Vicini to cry: "I told you so!" Baggio had a wretched game in Bologna against Brazil, when he was played out of it by his own Fiorentina colleague, the rugged Dunga. Used, against his will and wishes, as an attacker in Rotterdam against Holland this year, he failed again.

Fiorentina, to a certain extent, had played into Vicini's hands, being obliged through injuries frequently to use Baggio up front. Piteously, Baggio has been known to protest that when he plays in midfield, he is criticised for hanging too far back, when he plays up front, he is knocked for failing to make an impact.

But Maradona aside – and he was on the other team that day – how many players in the Italian League could have scored the wonderful goal he, Baggio, got at Fuorigrotta, three days before the Cesena game?

BY BRIAN GLANVILLE

With an amazing slalom, half the length of the field, Baggio glided his way by one Naples defender after another, swerving, accelerating, side-stepping, till at last he struck the ball home.

Alas, Fiorentina were to have few such deep satisfactions as the season went on. Baggio himself, wrenched apart by the pressures of Juventus, so keen to buy him, and the viola fans, so anxious to keep him, was constantly maltreated, into the bargain.

So much so, indeed, that he publicly appealed to the referees to give players like himself protection. By March, his ankles were so swollen from kicking that he was hardly able to walk, let alone to train; and to play.

For Fiorentina fans, young Baggio is the heart, soul and symbol of the team, which made steady progress through the UEFA Cup, while all was chaos in the Championship. Serenades and parades appealed to Baggio to stay with the club, until at last, again in March, Baggio announced that he would stay with Fiorentina come what may, that he had not the slightest wish to join Juventus.

Baggio's whole, short, impressive career has been a tormented one, above all through his ill luck with injuries. Still only 23 years old, he was born on February 18, 1967, at Caldogno, near Vicenza, and naturally enough it was Lanerossi Vicenza whom he joined.

That was in 1982, and they had fallen from the heights of glory reached when Paolo Rossi was their star. By then, they were a Serie C, Third Division, team, and all the football Baggio played for them was in that league.

He made his debut, and no other appearances, in season 1983/3, but did not win a regular place until season 1984/5, playing 29 games for a dozen goals. That was when the big clubs moved in and in 1985, Fiorentina paid a lot of money for him.

Alas, he almost immediately had to undergo a serious knee operation, and to sit out the whole of what should have been his first season in Serie A. Further injuries made 1986/7 a lost season, too.

He made only five appearances, the first at home to Sampdoria on September 21, 1986. It looked a good augury at the time, with Fiorentina winning 2-0. One goal was his haul, that season, but in 1987/88, Baggio was at last fit again.

And things went well. This time, he was able to play no fewer than 27 matches, scoring half a dozen goals, and he became the darling of the Fiorentina fans. Those appalling knee injuries were behind him, now; though goodness knows how all his ankle trouble will end.

But his two year Calvary may have taught him something, and through it all, through all the pain, frustrations and disappointment, he managed to grit his teeth, fight back, and play again.

If he admires any player, he has said, he likes to say it is the great Brazilian, Zico, who remains "my idol." But he brushes aside any kind of comparison. When the plaudits were flowing after his display against Bulgaria, Sandra Mazzola, a famous striker for Inter and Italy, said that Baggio was more agile than himself, but not as strong.

"Baggio must be Baggio," said Diego Maradona. "There should be no comparisons between him and any other player. I wish him all the luck in the world. All I'll say is this: Baggio would be really useful to the Argentina national team."

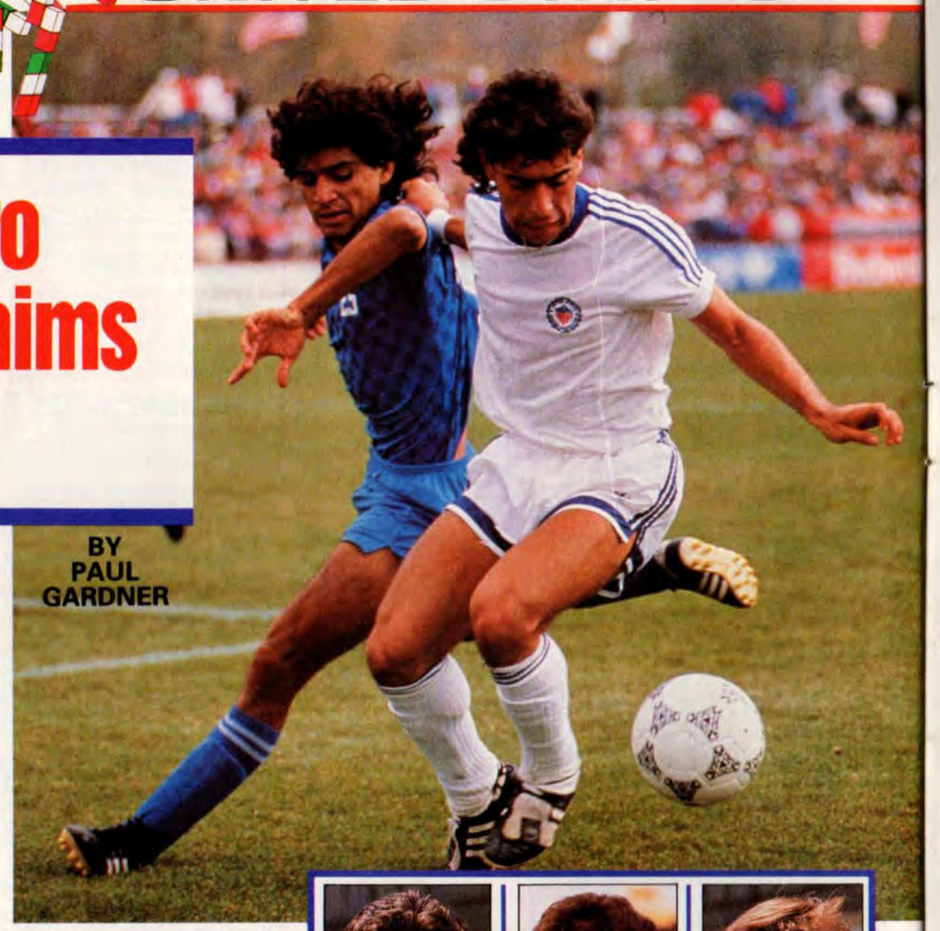
Heady days, and there has been something of an anticlimax. Baggio's fate, his dramma, as the Italians would say, is that he is neither fish nor fowl. Play him up front and he is wasted. Play him wide, and Donadoni is better. But with Italy's attack so impotent, the time should surely come when Vicini decides at last to rebuild his strategy so Baggio can play where he does best: "in the hole."

Giuseppe BERGOMI. Rightback/stopper. Aged 26 with more than 50 caps. Internazionale. The 'new' Claudio Gentile. Rejected by Milan as a youngster, Bergomi switched to Inter to find success across the city. He made his Italy debut at 18 as a substitute in a 1-0 defeat by East Germany in April 1982.

Gianluca VIALLI. Striker. Aged 25. Sampdoria. Major talent who has already been the subject of £9 million-plus bids from Juventus and Milan. Played for Cremonese, until Sampdoria spotted his potential in 1984. His goals have earned him comparisons with Italy's three post-war greats – Rivera, Mazzola and Riva.

Giuseppe GIANNINI. Midfield. Aged 25. Roma. Club captain and one of the few locally-discovered players to have made the grade with big-spending Roma. First came to international notice with the Italian team who finished fourth (losing to England in a penalty shoot-out at Watford) in the 1983 UEFA Youth Cup.

UNITED STATES



Goal hero Ramos aims for Italy

BY PAUL GARDNER

FOR Tab Ramos, the early football memories are of street games in his native Montevideo, Uruguay. Games with older boys, games which were always being interrupted by his mother calling him in to lunch or to dinner.

The important thing for the young Tab was to play. By 1974, when he was eight years old, he knew about the world game, he knew about Holland, he liked their orange shirts – but on the day of the World Cup final he was out playing in the street again.

In 1977, Tab's father Julian – a former pro-player and coach – decided, for economic reasons, to move his family to the USA.

They settled in New Jersey, and for a while Tab was a lonely boy, speaking very little English and desperately sad at the loss of his street soccer. But he soon found a playground where older boys played, and in no time he had been spotted as an exceptional talent – a little kid who could dribble rings around the big guys – and was snapped up by a local club, Kearny Thistle.

An astonishing high school career – in which he scored 182 goals in 60 games! – brought him national attention. His exploits attracted the attention of the US National Team coaches, who invited him – at age 16 to a camp of the U-20 team.

They decided he was already good enough, and told him he was on the team to play in the CONCACAF qualifying round for the 1983 U-20 World Cup in Mexico.

Then Tab broke the bad news. He wasn't a US citizen. He was eligible – he had five years' residence behind him – but hadn't done any of the paper work. Calls were made, strings were pulled, and in three weeks Tab Ramos was a citizen. The day after receiving his passport, he flew down to Guatemala for the CONCACAF tournament.

In the semi-finals, he scored the goal that beat the hosts Guatemala. He still rates it as his most exciting goal – even though, screened by players, he never saw his 16-yard shot enter the net.

Ramos' most bitter moment came in 1984. He had been a regular member of the US Olympic team in training, getting ready to play in Los Angeles before its own fans. The team, at that point, was made up of amateurs (Ramos was still in high school). But a last minute change of mind by the US Soccer Federation brought in the professionals. One week before the Games, the 17-year-old Ramos was cut from the team.

Drafted by the New York Cosmos in 1984, Tamos chose not to sign for them – aware that the whole North American Soccer League was living on borrowed time. He went instead, on a soccer scholarship to North Carolina State University.

There followed a two-year exile, before Ramos got back on to the national team in 1987. Since that time, he has confirmed that while – at 5' 6" – he may be the team's smallest player, he is also one of its most skilled players – second only to another Latin-born midfielder, Hugo Perez.

Vital goal

A regular member of the team throughout the qualifying games for 1990, Ramos scored a vital goal in the 1-0 home win over Costa Rica. A rare goal, too – for the prolific scoring of his high school days has not been repeated at the international level.

Under coach Bob Gansler, Ramos has been given defensive duties which seem to hold him back, to prevent him from getting into scoring positions around the box.

It is a situation that worries Ramos, who says: "I'm not satisfied with the progress I've made since high school. I should be a better player. Play used to be instinctive, but now I spend too much time analysing what I'm doing."

Bob Gansler sees Ramos as "an attacking, playing, midfielder who can score goals." Possibly, Gansler is forced to view him that way, because his team – repeatedly having to play without the injury-prone Perez – glaringly lacks a playmaker.

But Ramos evidently does not function well as a playmaker. His former Olympic coach, Manny Schellscheidt, says: "Beating people one on one, that's what Tab's so special at. He doesn't have remarkable defensive abilities, and I don't really see him as a playmaker. He should be going forward, getting his crosses in, scoring goals."

Last year, Ramos had a trial with Leeds United, and while not overly taken with the style of play, he was greatly excited by the professional atmosphere, living for a short while in a country where football is king. His dream is to play well in the World Cup finals to attract the attention of foreign coaches...and to be signed by a Spanish or Italian club.

Mike WINDISCHMANN. Defender. Aged 24. Albany Capitals. One of the most experienced players in the squad and a key member of the US team which finished third in the first world indoor championships in Holland a year ago. Played in the 1986 World Cup qualifiers and in the Olympic finals in Seoul in 1988.

Peter VERMES. Forward. Aged 23. Volendam (Hol). Outstanding college career with Rutgers. Starred with the US in Guatemala in January, 1988, then against future South American champions Nacional of Colombia at the Miami Marlboro Cup. Father played for Honed alongside Puskas and Co in the early 1950s.

Paul CALIGIURI. Defender/midfield. Aged 26. SV Meppen (West Germany). One of the first US players to try his luck in Europe, moving to West Germany originally with Hamburg. Was the national team's Player of the Year in 1986. Scored the dramatic winner against Trinidad which earned the US ticket to Italy.

WORLD SOCCER

EXCLUSIVE READERS OFFER

BOBBY CHARLTON SPORTS AND MUNDITALIA GEAR

SIZE CHART

S	M	L	XL
36/38	40/42	44/46	48/50

A **T-SHIRT** £5.00

B **SWEAT-SHIRT** £11.00

C **POLO SHIRT** £9.95p

E **RUGBY SHIRT** £10.95p

D **RUGBY SWEAT-SHIRT** £13.99p

G **BOOT BAG** £4.95p

H **MATCH BALL** £9.99p

G I **TOWEL** £6.99p

F1 **SMALL SPORTS BAG** £6.50p

F2 **MEDIUM SPORTS BAG** (Munditalia only) £7.99p

ORDER FORM

Qty	Description	Size	Cost (plus postage)

*Sizes Small (36"-38"); Medium (40"-42"); Large (44"-46"); X-Large (48"-50"). Relate to all garments.
*Add £1.00 post and packing UK. £3.50 Republic of Ireland and rest of world.
*Don't forget to indicate Bobby Charlton or Munditalia in description when ordering.
Make cheque/postal order payable to "Charlton Enterprises Ltd." Send: BOBBY CHARLTON SPORTS, 250 FINNEY LANE, HEALD GREEN, CHESHIRE SK8 3QD. Telephone: 061 436 1015. Fax: 061 499 0605.

Name .....
Address .....
..... Post Code .....
Telephone number .....

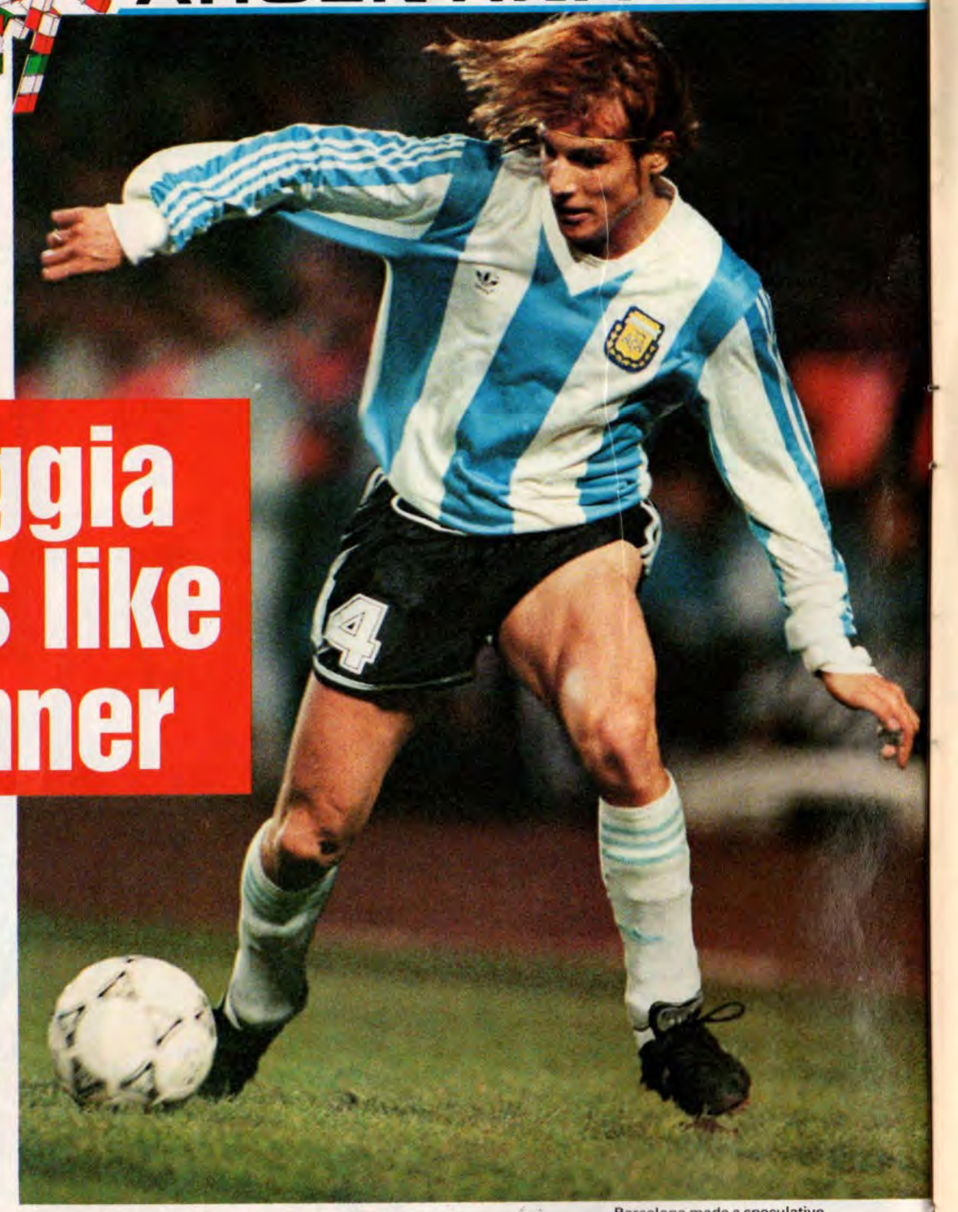
Or please debit my Access/Visa account (delete as appropriate)
Credit Card Number ..... Expiry Date .....
Card Holder's Name ..... Tel. No. .....
Card Holder's Address .....
Signature WS/5/90

*Please allow 28 days for delivery.

*All prices include VAT. *Only colours available as shown here.

ARGENTINA

GROUP B



Caniggia looks like a winner

DESPITE national President Carlos Menem's affirmation that Argentina's attack would be reinforced by the introduction of the experienced Monaco striker, Ramon Diaz, probability has it that the sole out-and-out forward in Carlos Bilardo's World Cup side will be Claudio Caniggia.

Menem's public espousal of the Diaz cause may have its roots in the fact that both politician and Diaz hail from the provincial Argentine town of La Rioja, but general concern has been mounting as to the World Cup holders anemic goal output in recent times.

Since January 1989 and prior to the March friendly in Scotland, Argentina have clocked up the far from impressive tally of five goals in 13 games, amassing in the process no less than nine goalless matches.

The value of Caniggia to Argentina was underlined during last summer's Copa America in Brazil. Proving to be one of the few of his countrymen to escape the mediocre label, he alone was responsible for Argentina's meagre harvest of two goals, illuminating Bilardo's over-schematic approach with his pace.

For the coming World Cup the blond Caniggia of the rock star looks will find himself in a similar situation to that which Ramoz Diaz experienced in 1982. Like Diaz eight years ago, Caniggia is one of the rare newcomers to a basically unchanged Argentine team seeking to retain its world title on European soil. While Diaz failed to live up to his goalscoring reputation as a youthful member of an ageing side in Spain, the thorny question is whether Caniggia will shine in a side which arguably has passed its prime.

Ironically the 23-year-old, who shoulders much of the attacking hopes of this football-mad nation with Diego Maradona, is by no means an archetypal centre forward of the traditional school. One is more likely to witness Caniggia as a winger, in his element in a direct confrontation to an opposing full-back.

Claudio Paul Caniggia was born on January 9, 1967 in Henderson, a town of 10,000 inhabitants, some four hundred kilometres from Buenos Aires. His early years saw him excel at basketball and particularly athletics, thanks to his prodigious speed. However by the age of 15, football had become his chosen vocation. Spotted by River Plate, he left home for the capital.

Before he had turned 19, Caniggia

BY NICK BIDWELL

was installed as a regular fixture of the 'Millonarios' first team and in December 1986 he was awarded an opening cap in a 2-1 defeat at the hands of Peru. The following year he polished his growing reputation in the Copa America, being one of the few Argentines to play to potential as Bilardo's team completed the tournament in a poor fourth place in spite of home advantage.

Proof of a developing popularity was available in the match with Ecuador. Caniggia spent the first half of a goalless and insipid affair on the bench while the crowd vociferously called for Bilardo to give the youngster his chance. A banner on the terraces read: "Bilardo. We want Caniggia in the team. Do not be like Menotti in 1978 with Maradona."

Despite its twisted logic – Menotti won the 1978 World Cup without the youthful Maradona – that message was symptomatic of a widespread Caniggia bandwagon and coach Bilardo jumped onto it. Thus introduced for the second period, the River Plate prodigy scored immediately and provided much of the inspiration as Argentina ran out 3-0 victors.

Between 1986 and 1988 he thrilled his club fans at the 'Monumental' with his pace, mazy dribbling and aura of flamboyance, but the prospect of richer pickings across the Atlantic meant that his destiny was ordained to be a European team contract. Verona and Roma engaged in battle to capture Caniggia's signature, the former winning the day even when Barcelona made a speculative eleventh-hour bid to link him with Gary Lineker.

Unconvincing might be the most appropriate word to describe his Verona experience, although it must be added in mitigation that he was hardly helped by an injury which kept him out for three months after the winter break. When present in a side which only managed 18 goals all season, his most fervent Argentine admirers would not have recognised him as he quite plainly struggled to adapt to the unforgiving world of Serie A.

With Verona now eager to off-load him, Caniggia overtly stated his wish to join one of the big-city Italian clubs, but his new home was to be at Atalanta of Bergamo. He has at times enraged his much-respected manager, Emiliano Mondonico, but signs are that the Argentine is belatedly starting to settle in.

Italy experience means everything to Balbo

BY ROSY BROGLIA

ABEL Edoardo Balbo knows he is about to compete at the greatest occasion of his career and he believes playing in Italy – even if Udinese are not in the best position – is ideal preparation.

Balbo says: "I certainly realise it's a big opportunity. When you are considered a good footballer in Italy, then you can play at a good level anywhere else, even in the World Cup."

You used to play in River Plate, one of the most famous Argentinian teams: they say they're going to collapse. Why?

"Yes, unfortunately this is not only a problem involving River Plate, or football in general. In my country the economic situation is very bad. So even football suffers."

Valdano will probably be part of your national team in the World Cup. Do you think this is wise?

"Of course, Valdano is a great player, very experienced and I am sure he will give good help to our team."

What about Maradona?

"He is simply the best, unique."

Would you like Diaz to return to the Argentine team?

"Well, he has a lot of experience and has already played one World Cup on the other hand, if he comes back, maybe I will be left out!"

Your group is a tough one...

"I think it is the hardest of the Competition, but I am sure we will qualify."

Which teams will be in the last four?

"Italy, Argentina, West Germany and Brazil."

CAN MARADONA DO IT AGAIN?

BY KEIR RADNEDGE

DIEGO MARADONA is much more than the world's greatest footballer. He is also the most controversial and the most enigmatic. He a cannot appear in public or on a football pitch without arousing the most contrasting of emotions.

His rise to fame is easily told: Maradona was born on October 30, 1960, named Diego Armando, after his grandfather. He was the first son of the family but the fifth child. His parents already had four daughters – Ana, Rita, Elsa and Maria Rosa. Later there were more children – brothers Lalo and Hugo and sister Claudia. The family lived in the working-class Fiorito suburb of Lanus in the province of Buenos Aires. It was here that Diego began playing football for a kids' team named Estrella Roja (Red Star) at the age of nine. Later he and his friends founded a team known as Los Cebollitas (The Little Onions) who were so promising the team was signed up en block by unfashionable first division club Argentinos Juniors and turned into one of the club's youth sides. Already Maradona had great admirers. One was the Argentinos youth coach Juan Carlos Montes; another was boyhood friend Jorge Cyterszpiler – who was later to become his manager and, for several years, front Maradona's personal management company, Maradona Enterprises. On October 20, 1976 Maradona (wearing No 16) made his league debut as a 15-year-old substitute against Talleres of Cordoba and a week later he played his first full match against Newell's Old Boys from Rosario. In February 1977 he made his debut for Argentina as a substitute for Rene Houseman in a 5-1 victory in a friendly against Hungary.

World record

In 1979 he inspired Argentina's victory in the World Youth Cup. His fame was such that Argentinos could hold him no longer. Buenos Aires giants Boca Juniors stepped in to pay a £1 million transfer fee. This was a world record. Argentinos' fans were furious.

In 18 months Maradona's value escalated like Argentine inflation – by 200 per cent. He had cost Boca £1 million; yet in 1982, in the wake of the World Cup finals in Spain, he was sold to Barcelona for a further world record fee of £3 million. Maradona was rapidly earning a reputation for financial as well as football magic. He stayed at Barcelona only two seasons. One was scarred by a potentially crippling ligament injury inflicted by Andoni Goicoechea, the notorious Butcher of Bilbao. The other was marred by a debilitating attack of hepatitis. Maradona must have felt the fates were against him. So, in 1984, he and his 'Clan' packed their bags and headed off to Italy's Napoli. Again the price was a world record: £5 million this time.

That deal was due to have ended in 1988 but Napoli president Corrado Ferlaino has long since nailed Maradona down to a contract which will keep him with Napoli until July next year. After that, it's anyone's guess...especially if Argentina retain the World Cup.

Nery Alberto PUMPIDO. Goalkeeper. Aged 32. Betis (Spain). Pumpido was Argentina's World Cup-winning keeper in Mexico and has made a remarkable comeback from a horrific injury when he caught his wedding ring on a nail in a crossbar during training. Joined Betis from River Plate.

Oscar Alfredo RUGGERI. Central defender. Aged 28. Real Madrid (Spain). One of the few Argentine stars to have played for both Buenos Aires rivals, River Plate and Boca Juniors. After starring in the Mexico World Cup win, Ruggeri transferred to Spain with little-known Logrones. Joined Madrid last summer.

Sergio Daniel BATISTA. Midfield. Aged 27. River Plate. Brains of the Argentinos Juniors team who surprisingly won the South American Club Cup at first attempt in 1985. His fine form in the 1986 World Cup triumph earned a big-money transfer to River Plate. A member of the 1983 World Youth Cup squad.

Jorge Luis BURRUCHAGA. Midfield. Aged 27. Nantes (Fr). The man whose goal won the 1986 World Cup Final. A member of Independiente's World and South American cup-winning team of 1984. In 1985 he moved to Nantes but spent most of the time undergoing treatment for knee injuries.

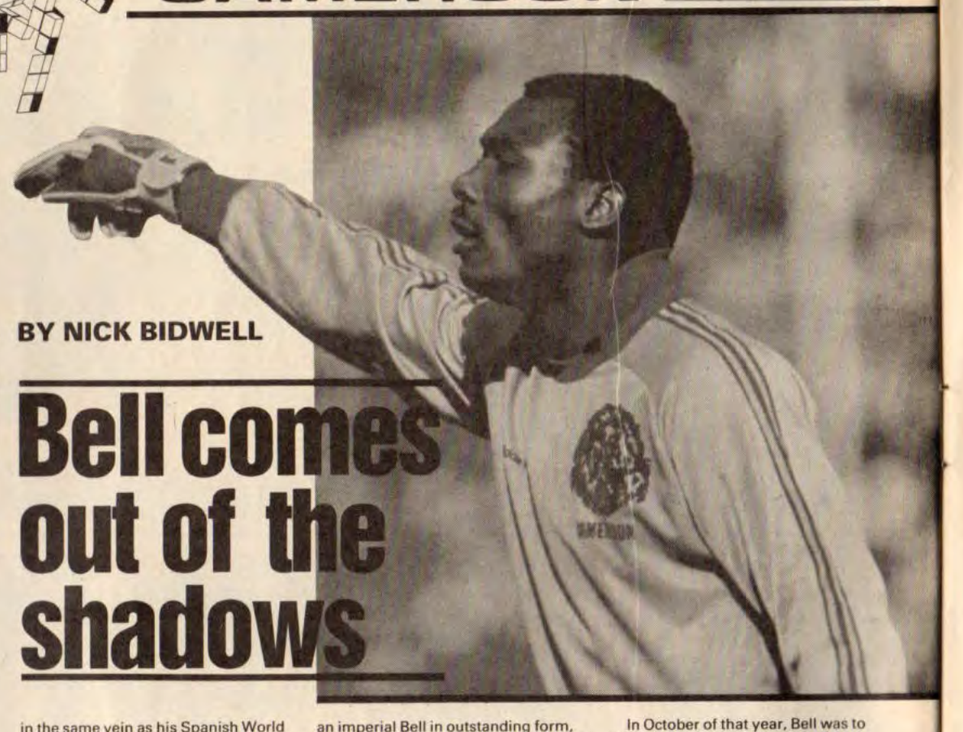
Jorge VALDANO. Forward. Aged 34. Formerly Real Madrid. World Cup-winning star in Mexico who retired a year later after suffering from hepatitis. Last summer he was persuaded to attempt a comeback by Argentine manager Bilardo. His first match back in action was a 2-0 defeat by Monaco in a spring friendly.

Ricardo GIUSTI. Midfield. Aged 33. River Plate. One of the most experienced players in the Argentine squad. Began his career at Newell Old Boys and later played in the same Argentinos Juniors side as Diego Maradona in the early 1980s. Runs all day and supreme fitness will probably win him a place in Bilardo's midfield. Has 46 caps.

ITALIA'90

WORLD CUP COUNTDOWN

CAMEROON GROUP B



BY NICK BIDWELL

Bell comes out of the shadows

THIS year could well be a vintage one for that colourful keeper for Bordeaux and Cameroon, Joseph-Antoine Bell. His French club are setting a breakneck pace in their bid for the championship, while back in favour as his country's number one keeper, the popular Bell can look forward to the challenge of the World Cup.

Reinstated between the Cameroon posts for the crucial World Cup eliminators with Tunisia, the 35-year-old produced peerless displays both in Yaounde and Tunis as the 'Indomitable Lions' ran out comfortable 3-0 aggregate victors and booked their ticket for Italy.

Bell had been a more than disgruntled spectator on the touchline during his nation's previous finals expedition in 1982, when the Africans surprised many by remaining undefeated against eventual winners Italy, Poland and Peru, but still exited the competition.

Cameroon coach, Jean Vincent – a French hero of the 1958 World Cup – preferred Thomas N'Kono, leaving Bell a mere onlooker as the Canon Yaounde man's prowess in goal enticed Espanol to sign him.

The substitute goalkeeper believed that he was the victim of a decision based on past reputations rather than current form. "In Cameroon it has become a habit to play N'Kono in goal," Bell declared. "But it is such an old habit that the choice simply does not rest on any objective criteria."

If able to retain his pole position ahead of N'Kono in the pecking order, Bell considers Italia 90 the natural occasion to compensate for his inactive Spanish 'vacation' of eight years ago.

The draw which placed Cameroon in a decidedly tough group containing Argentina, Russia and Rumania can hardly be regarded as conducive to the Lions making further progress, but the likes of Maradona, Hagi and Protasov should allow Bell ample opportunities to exhibit his own brand of feline-style keeping.

An influential member of the side which captured the Africa Nation's Cup two years ago, Joseph-Antoine veritably exploded on the African scene during the course of Cameroon's 1984 win in the Ivory Coast.

Unfortunately for Bell, the scenario of that tournament was to commence in the same vein as his Spanish World Cup experience, with long-standing rival N'Kono as the wearer of the number one shirt for the opening two matches – a 1-0 defeat to Egypt and 4-1 romp over Togo. The script, however, had not reached its final draft and Bell was to benefit from the European club versus African country wrangling which so often afflicts the interests of black soccer nations.

N'Kono's employers at Espanol had an important game and insisted their player return to the Catalan capital for the duration. Bell seized his opportunity so adroitly in a 2-0 win against hosts Ivory Coast that N'Kono never did use his return ticket to Abidjan.

Freed from the psychological burden of being N'Kono's understudy for the past nine years, his confidence soared. The semi-final against the Algeria of Belloumi and Madjer saw an imperial Bell in outstanding form, defying laws of self-preservation as he dived at the feet of onrushing North African forwards and giving proof of his razor-sharp reflexes.

Goalless after 120 minutes, a penalty shoot-out was the order of the day, and Bell was to be the decisive factor, coolly tucking away the winning kick past the bemused Algerian keeper, Cerbah.

In the Final, Cameroon's opponents were the 'Green Eagles' of Nigeria who took a deserved tenth-minute lead. Nigeria captain, Stephen Keshi – now at Anderlecht – bore a look of sheer disbelief moments later, when after smashing a ferocious drive towards Bell's goal, the keeper pulled off a splendidly acrobatic stop.

That save was the turning point as soon after, Lions stopper N'Djeya forced home a free-kick, to be followed by late goals from Abega and Ebongue to clinch Cameroon's first 'African Unity Cup' after 27 years of trying.

In October of that year, Bell was to turn professional as a recruit of Arab Contractors, the Egyptian team financed by millionaire developer, Osman Ahmed. Guided by English coach, Mike Everitt, and with Bell and Ghanian midfield star, Abdul Razak, as the team's lynchpins, the Cairo club gleaned both the 1983 league crown and the continent's Cup-winners' Cup after beating Agaza Lome of Togo.

Feeling that he had achieved all possible in Africa, he turned his ambitions towards a career in Europe and in 1985 emigrated to Marseille. His permanently cheerful demeanour and acrobatic keeping won him the admiration of supporters and opposition alike.

All over the country fans became accustomed to the hitherto strange sight of Bell racing gleefully the length of the pitch to lead celebrations after a goal. Despite playing for most of that campaign with a shoulder injury, he even helped his new club to an unexpected Cup final appearance, but although he made a penalty save, the African was powerless to prevent a Giresse-inspired Bordeaux win 2-1.

Promoted club captain for the following season, Bell continued to be one of the principal artisans of the Mediterranean port club's generally accomplished term in which Marseille were pipped at the tape in both League and Cup by Bordeaux. Indeed it was the usually reliable Bell, who was to cost the team dear.

In a May home game with Lens which Tapie's team had to win, the Cameroon keeper pressed the self-destruct button. Attempting a clearance from wide in his own box, he inexplicably mishit the ball straight to opposition striker, Tobolik, who duly slotted the gift into the empty net.

By the end of the 1987-88 season, the honeymoon between Marseille and their keeper was dissolving amidst a cloud of mutual recriminations. A proud man, Bell was profoundly hurt by the rumours that Tapie wished to obtain the services of another custodian. He considered retirement, but eventually moved along the Cote d'Azur to join Toulon, before signing for Bordeaux in the close season.

Talismanic

Born in the Cameroon town of Mouande on October 8, 1954, his reputation as a keeper of promise was forged with Union Douala. At the Yaounde club he became a talismanic figure, and not simply as a last-line-of-defence. Symptomatic of his instincts for the dramatic was an extraordinary performance in the 1979 African Champions' Cup final against Ghana's Hearts of Oak. With just three minutes remaining, the referee awarded Union a penalty and up strolled the smiling Bell to send opposite number, Sam Suppey the wrong way for the cup-winning goal.

Following this personal triumph, he surprisingly departed for Paris, where he hoped to combine university studies with a new career in the ranks of a French league side. Bell's efforts, however, were fruitless and ended up accepting an offer from Ivory Coast's Africa Sports of Abdijan. There he quickly developed into an inspirational leader of the team which won the national title in 1982.

Stephen TATAW. Right back. Aged 26. Tonnerre Yaounde. National team captain and one of the most respected players in the domestic game, having turned down a string of offers to turn professional in Belgium or France.

Francois OMAM BIYICK. Forward. Aged 25. Laval (France). Star of the qualifying success and top scorer with five goals – including the all-important second leg winner in the play-off against Tunisia.

Emile MBOUH. Midfield. Aged 30. Le Havre (France). Occasional captain of the national team and one of the heroes of Cameroon's 1988 African Nations' Cup Final victory over Nigeria in Casablanca, Morocco.

SOCCER BOOKSHELF

Order from this small selection of books and videos or send for our catalogue which lists over 160 books and 120 videos (UK – SAE).

Postage. Videos: prices include a charge for post (UK First Class, Overseas Airmail). Books: please add postage as shown.

Delivery times: UK 1-2 weeks; Europe 2-4 weeks; North America 4-7 weeks; elsewhere up to 10 weeks. Air 2-7 days.

BOOKS

NEW! WALK ALONE. The Craig Johnston Story. Hardback £14.95. UK Post + £2.30; Overseas + £3.60; Air + £8.00.

EUROPEAN CUPS 1989. A superb 208 page record of 1988/89 European Cup. European Cup-Winners Cup and UEFA Cup – Full statistics written in English and Italian – softback price £9.00 UK post + £1.00; Overseas post + £1.50; Air + £4.50.

FIFA World Cup 1930-86: Full country by country record of World Cup Final series. Softback £3.95; UK Post +75p; Overseas Post +£1.25; Air +£2.75.

NASL – A Complete Record of the North American Soccer League The massive complete history of the NASL – a great buy. Hardback £17.95; UK Post + £2.20; Overseas Post + £3.50; Air + £12.50.

European Football Yearbook 1988/89 A few remaining copies of last year's superb annual (over 600 pages) Softback £19.95; UK Post +£2.20; Overseas Post +£3.50; Air +£10.00

NEW! THE FOOTBALL GROUNDS OF EUROPE. Superb new publication – packed with pictures and information. Hardback price £14.95; UK post + £2.30; Overseas post + £3.60; Air + £9.00.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP 1958-1988. The history of the European Nations Cup – includes statistics. Hardback price £9.95, softback price £5.95; UK Post + £1.00; Overseas Post + £1.50; Air + £5.50.

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL BOOK NO. 31. The latest edition of this best seller. Softback price £8.95; UK Post + £1.50; Overseas Post + £2.50; Air + £6.00.

WHAT GAME IS IT ANYWAY? Widely regarded as the book about fanzines. Softback price – £5.95. UK Post + £1.00; Overseas Post + £1.50; Air £3.50.

SOCCER'S STRANGEST MATCHES. A fascinating collection of true stories. Hardback £10.95; UK Post + £1.50; Overseas + £1.75; Air + £3.50.

VIDEOS

NEW RELEASES

VHS All priced £11.95 UK; £14.95 Overseas.
SCOTLAND THE BRAVE. Scottish triumphs over England (58 mins).
1972 FA CUP FINAL: LEEDS v ARSENAL. (111 mins).
1985 FA CUP FINAL: EVERTON v MANCHESTER UNITED. (139 mins).
1987 FA CUP FINAL: COVENTRY v SPURS.
THE JIMMY GREAVES STORY (73 mins).
THE ROAD TO ITALY. (120 mins). Highlights from Ireland's qualifying games for the 1990 World Cup. Price £16.95 UK; £18.95 Overseas.
21 YEARS OF FOOTBALL IN LONDON, 1968-1989. Action from London's top clubs. (52 mins).

WORLD CUP
ARGENTINA – THE WORLD CUP STORY 1990 (50 mins).
BRAZIL – THE WORLD CUP STORY 1990 (50 mins).
ENGLAND – THE WORLD CUP STORY 1990 (50 mins).
HOLLAND – THE WORLD CUP STORY 1990 (50 mins).
ITALY – THE WORLD CUP STORY 1990 (50 mins).
SPAIN – THE WORLD CUP STORY 1990 (50 mins).
URUGUAY – THE WORLD CUP STORY 1990 (50 mins).
USSR – THE WORLD CUP STORY 1990 (50 mins).
WEST GERMANY – THE WORLD CUP STORY 1990 (50 mins).
THE OTHER CONTENDERS – THE WORLD CUP STORY 1990 (50 mins).
GILLETTE WORLD CUP SPECIAL (55 mins).
WORLD CUP HALL OF FAME VOL. 1 (55 mins).
20 GOLDEN YEARS OF THE WORLD CUP 1966-1986 (55 mins).
THE WORLD CUP – THE GAME OF THE CENTURY (Re-release).
THE BOYS FROM BRAZIL (85 mins).

OTHERS
THE MANCHESTER UNITED STORY (60 mins).
THE BOBBY CHARLTON STORY (53 mins).
LIVERPOOL – THE TEAM OF THE DECADE (85 mins).
DAVID ROCASTLE – THE ROCKY ROAD TO SUCCESS (60 mins).
MARADONA – NAPOLI CORNER (50 mins).
MICHEL PLATINI – SOCCER SUPERSTAR (60 mins).

USA VIDEOS

(Suitable for North America and Japan)

VHS
GOAL – 1966 World Cup £24.95
THE STORY OF THE WORLD CUP £27.50
1986 WORLD CUP £27.95
GOLE – 1982 World Cup £27.95
PELE. The story of the World's greatest footballer. (69 mins) ..... £27.95.
HERO. The 1986 World Cup ..... £27.95.

10% DISCOUNT ON ALL ORDERS IN EXCESS OF £60

ORDER FORM

To: THE SOCCER BOOKSHELF, (WORLD SOCCER), 72 ST. PETERS AVENUE, CLEETHORPES, DN35 8HU, ENGLAND. Tel. (0472) 696226; (24hr orderline). Faxline. (0472) 698546.

From: .....

.....

.....

(30) .....

TITLE	PRICE £	PRICE p	POST £	POST p

Make cheques payable to: MAIL ORDER SERVICES

COST
Less 10% discount (orders over £60
+ Postage
Total

I enclose cheque /cash /British PO for
I wish to pay by Credit Card No. ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐
Access /Master Charge ☐ Barclaycard /Visa ☐ American Express ☐
I have paid by Transcash into Account No. 278 — 2952 ☐

★ CUSTOMERS MAY PAY IN US, CANADIAN AND AUSTRALIAN DOLLARS – CHEQUES AND MONEY ORDERS ★

ITALIA'90 WORLD CUP COUNTDOWN

GROUP B

SOVIET UNION

How Alexei switched FROM SUPERSUB TO SUPERSTAR

THE presence of Kiev Dynamo captain Alexei Mikhailichenko in the World Cup will be of crucial importance to a successful Soviet campaign.

That's why an operation carried out in a Milan clinic in February was of no little concern to team boss Valeri Lobanovsky.

The injury picked up in a friendly match against Torino put Mikhailichenko out for at least six weeks and threatened the Soviet build-up to the World Cup for they were already without the injured Dobrovolsky and foreign exiles Dasayev, Zavarov and Aleinikov.

The role of Mikhailichenko will be a central one for in recent years he has proved to be the key figure binding defence, midfield and attack together in a way not dissimilar to Ruud Gullit.

Like Gullit, Mikhailichenko was a late starter to top football. Although he made his debut in the Kiev first team in 1982, he did not earn a place in the side until Alexander Zavarov had a prolonged injury spell in the summer of 1987.

Even when Zavarov returned to the first team Mikhailichenko had proved himself so vital that he could not be replaced.

Mikhailichenko is unusual also in that he is one of the few at the Kiev club who was born in the Ukrainian capital. The son of a cinema technician and a chemist, he was born on May 30, 1963 in Kiev.

From his earliest years, he was attracted to sports and he joined the Kiev boys team at the age of ten where he was to be coached by the former Kiev star forward, Anatoli Byshovets.

It was the latter who was to coach him through into the Kiev first team which he joined some eight years later.

The player he chose as his models were the former Kiev captain Victor Kolotov and France's Michel Platini.

Alexei's debut arrived in April 1982 in a cup semi-final versus Dynamo Tiblisi. His contribution lasted only one minute as he entered the fray in the 89th minute!

Regular

Kiev ended up winning the Soviet Cup, but it was a long five seasons before he gained a regular place.

There was only a substitutes role for the tall blond Mikhailichenko during Kiev's successful Cup-winners' Cup campaign in 1986 and no place in the Mexico World Cup.

However Eyshovets was now the coach of the Soviet Olympic team and with qualifying matches starting in the autumn of 1986, Alexei was a sure choice for midfield, a decision which was slightly controversial as he was being used at his club as an attacking forward. Yet the gamble proved a correct one as he turned out in all the matches right through to the Final in Seoul.

During the 1987 season Mikhailichenko earned a unique goal-scoring reputation as he scored in six consecutive matches, most of them with himself being substitute. Recognition came when he gained his first full cap playing against East Germany in Kiev in a European Championship qualifier.

More significant was his replacement of key midfield player Zavarov when the latter was seriously injured in the summer of 1987.

Despite Zavarov's return to first team duty, Mikhailichenko has never lost his first team place.

Mikhailichenko became a real hero for Soviet fans when he scored the vital goal against France in Moscow which secured a place in the European Championship Finals in West Germany. But his accolade as the new star in Soviet soccer turned sour as he received a red card in a Cup defeat against lowly club Rotor from Volgograd right at the end of the season.

The beginning of 1988 did not see Mikhailichenko in the ranks of the Soviet squad for the Championships in West Germany because the Soviet football authorities believed that the Kiev star was needed more in the Olympic squad, training for the Seoul Games three months after the tournament in Germany.

He was needed, of course but by Lobanovsky and his full squad. The Soviet team coach demanded that Mikhailichenko be part of the Euro-88 squad and finally he was released to play against Holland, Ireland and England.

The rest is history for there is little doubt that Mikhailichenko was one of the Soviet successes of the tournament and he scored the second goal against England.

The Soviet defeat against Holland in the final was not due to any lack of effort by Mikhailichenko. That season he was named the Player of the Year in the Soviet Union with a record number of votes and he won fourth place in the awards given by France Football for 1988 behind the Dutch trio of Gullit, Van Basten and Rijkaard.

By the end of October Mikhailichenko had added a gold medal to add to his European silver for the Soviet team had won the Olympics.

BY GREGOR TESSI

Rinat DASAYEV. Goalkeeper. Aged 32. Sevilla (Sp). Generally rated the world's No 1 goalkeeper. Born at Astrakhan and called the New Yashin. Kept goal for the Soviet team who finished third in the 1980 Olympics in Moscow and was voted Footballer of the Year a few months later. Began with Moscow Spartak.

Alexander ZAVAROV. Midfield. Aged 29. Juventus (It) – who signed him for £3 million from Kiev two years ago. Former Soviet Footballer of the Year. Overcame problems early in his career to become famous overnight with his superb generalship in Kiev's 1986 Cup-winners' Cup triumph over Atletico Madrid.

Oleg PROTASOV. Centre-forward. Aged 26. Kiev. Prolific scorer who, in the 1985 season with Dnepr, set an all-time record with 35 goals in 34 league games. That just beat the old mark of 34 goals in a season set by the former national team star Nikita Simonyan. Protasov's 35 goals included four hat-tricks.

ITALIA'90 WORLD CUP COUNTDOWN

RUMANIA

GROUP B

HAGI: Rumania's Maradona

GHEORGHE Hagi, suddenly and unexpectly free from the pervasive clutches of the deposed Ceausescu clan, following the overthrow of the Rumanian dictatorship, will travel to Italy in the knowledge that he is now free to move to the West, most likely to embrace the lure of the lire with unbridled relish.

Hagi's market potential is close to £4 million, a teenage prodigy who fulfilled all expectations and now has to live with the burden of being universally acclaimed as the finest Rumanian footballer of all time.

Hagi, aged 25, is a midfield schemer of no little vision and adds to it an instinct for goals which, given his physical resemblance to the best Latin players has justifiably, led to him being dubbed the "Maradona of the Carpathians."

Hagi was born in the small village of Sacale, near Constanta, one of Rumania's major Black Sea resorts. After signing for Constanta, progress was swift, and an impressive series of performances for Rumania's junior team soon caught the eye of Bucharest's top clubs.

So, with his talent blossoming, Hagi, in time-honoured fashion was offered a golden opportunity to sign for either Steaua or Dinamo – the country's two biggest clubs. Yet even at a tender age Hagi had a clear vision of what was best for himself and opted for neither club, in the belief that he still had too much to learn, and would do so quicker at a slightly lower level.

So, to complete the learning process and at the same time ensure that he had a regular diet of first division football, Hagi preferred instead a spell with Sportul Studentesc.

It was to prove a wise decision. Hagi improved with every game, gave Sportul some respectability and received due reward when, in 1983, still only aged 18, he made his full international debut against Norway.

At Sportul he was the dominant figure in most games; he schemed from midfield yet was perceptive enough to be in the right place when a scoring opportunity came his way. It soon became evident, however, that the time was coming when he would move on to a bigger club.

The opportunity presented itself in the summer of 1986, as Hagi moved to Steaua, the world-famous army club. (Sportul were furious when no transfer fee was forthcoming).

Hagi adapted easily to the demands of playing for the European champions and proved his worth in his first season by adding a new dimension to Steaua's play, in the process forming a lethal partnership with Lacatus – they are now collectively valued at around £7 million by prospective Italian and Spanish buyers – which was to be repeated with some success in national colours.

Hagi's talent for creating goals has been matched almost by his ability to score himself: 12 goals in 44 appearances up to the turn of the year.

Hagi's incentive to perform to the peak of his ability at the World Cup finals in Italy, is the knowledge that he will be closely monitored by virtually all of Europe's major clubs. The Rumanian authorities have already emphasised that he – and Lacatus – will be sold immediately after the finals to help add to the hard currency fund which will be used to help restructure Rumania's post-revolution sporting structure.

Hardship

Hagi, of course, did not go entirely unrewarded during his years with the army club who, in 1989 alone are said to have earned over £3½ million abroad. Bucharest may have experienced immense hardship under Ceausescu, but Hagi, who owned a gleaming Mercedes 2.3, was one of the chosen few and led an extremely privileged lifestyle.

Steaua, and city rivals Dinamo, did nothing without consultation from the Ceausescu's who used football to further their bank balances by using trips abroad to run an illegal foreign exchange racket. It is widely believed that neither Hagi or Lacatus would have been permitted to leave for Italy without the presidential seal of approval.

It is known that Milan's tycoon president, Silvio Berlusconi has been impressed with what Hagi has to offer and, if Dutch player Ruud Gullit, fails to regain full fitness and is released by the European champions, the Rumanian could be in the red and black of Milan next season.

Silviu LUNG. Goalkeeper. Aged 34. Steaua. Former Rumanian Footballer of the Year who made his name when Universitatea Craiova reached the UEFA Cup semi-finals in 1983. Joined army club Steaua in 1987 after injury forced the premature retirement of their 1986 European Cup Final hero, Helmut Ducadam.

Marius LACATUS. Right wing. Aged 26. Steaua. Tall and slim and sharp in front of goal, as he demonstrated in one of his early internationals – scoring twice as Rumania hit back from 0-2 down to beat Portugal 3-2 in January, 1985. Key member of Steaua's European Cup final line-ups in 1986 and 1989.

Dorin MATEUT. Midfield. Aged 25. Dinamo Bucharest. Another graduate from ex-national manager Mircea Lucescu's youth programme at Corvinul Hunedoara – though he did not switch to Dinamo until 1986. Scored 43 goals in the 1988-89 league season to win the coveted Golden Boot as Europe's top scorer.

ITALIA'90 WORLD CUP COUNTDOWN

BRAZIL

GROUP C

MAZINHO IS SIMPLY SUPERB

By Brian Homewood

MAZINHO does not score hatfuls of goals, he does not miss training sessions and get into fights with his manager and he does not get involved in off-the-field scandals.

He is, however, one of the most important members of Sebastiao Lazaroni's Brazil squad. Although most of the attention last year was focused on the exploits of Bebeto and Romario, Mazinho made an equally important contribution to Brazil's recovery.

Mazinho real name Lomar do Nascimento set up what were probably Brazil's most important two goals of last year. The first, the winning goal against Uruguay in the decisive match of the Copa America, came when he made a run down the right, played a one-two with Valdo and then crossed to the near post for Romario to head home.

The second, which gave Brazil the lead in their tense World Cup qualifying game against Chile in Santiago, came when he made another run, this time down the left, and sent a low cross into the penalty area, leaving Chile's defence to do the rest.

He was also instrumental in Vasco's victory over Sao Paulo in the final of the 1989 Copa Uniao. He marked Sao Paulo's leading scorer Mario Tilico out of the game yet still found time to go forward in the move which led to Vasco's winning goal. He was unanimously voted the best player on the pitch.

Mazinho was called into Brazil's side for the first time last year, and made an impact with four outstanding performances during the Copa America after replacing injured Jorginho at right back.

For Vasco, Mazinho usually plays left back. But as a naturally right-footed player, he is equally happy in either position, while at earlier stages during his career he played in midfield, as a left-winger and at centre-forward.

It will be intriguing to see what Lazaroni does when he has his full squad available. The first choice right back is Jorginho, while Branco is generally regarded as being the favourite for left back.

If Mazinho keeps up his current form, however, there will be no way Lazaroni can keep him out of the team.

Mazinho attributes his success in the national team to the 3-5-2 system which Lazaroni has bravely implanted despite all the criticism. He goes forward more for Brazil than for Vasco.

"It is something which has really worked out," he told WORLD SOCCER. "It's a scheme which all of Europe is playing. When we played the Brazilian way against the European teams, we got hit. Now, it's the other way round."

He would like to see the system used more widely in Brazil – at the time of writing not one single Brazilian club side had adopted it.

Mazinho says: "In Europe the system used by many clubs is the same as the one used by the national team. Here it is completely different. Each manager has his own system and they don't want to adapt it because they think they are copying someone else. But if the clubs here changed their systems, it would be easier for the players to adapt to the national team."

Although Mazinho displays all the ball skills and control traditionally associated with Brazilian players, he admits – surprisingly for anyone who has seen him play – that he is not as skilful as he used to be.

Destroy

This he blames on a spell in Vasco's midfield "when my only function was to destroy the opposition's move and lay the ball off." He says that since moving to left back "I have regained my technical ability but it is not as good as it used to be."

Mazinho has virtually arranged terms to play for Pescara of Italy after the World Cup ("Everything is more or less settled") although the move will only be finalised if Pescara are promoted back to the Italian first division. If not, Pescara will probably buy him in any case and loan him to another Italian club.

He puts his desire to leave Brazil down to financial reasons, saying: "It's for independence because a career in football is short. You always have to think about tomorrow and this is an opportunity which, in financial terms, is very good and can't be turned down. It would take me about six years in Brazil to earn what I will get in the first year in Italy."

He also says that "football in Brazil is badly organised." The worse problem, he says, is the number of games. "We have to play Sunday, Wednesday, sometimes we play on Thursday, sometimes on Saturday and this wears you out."

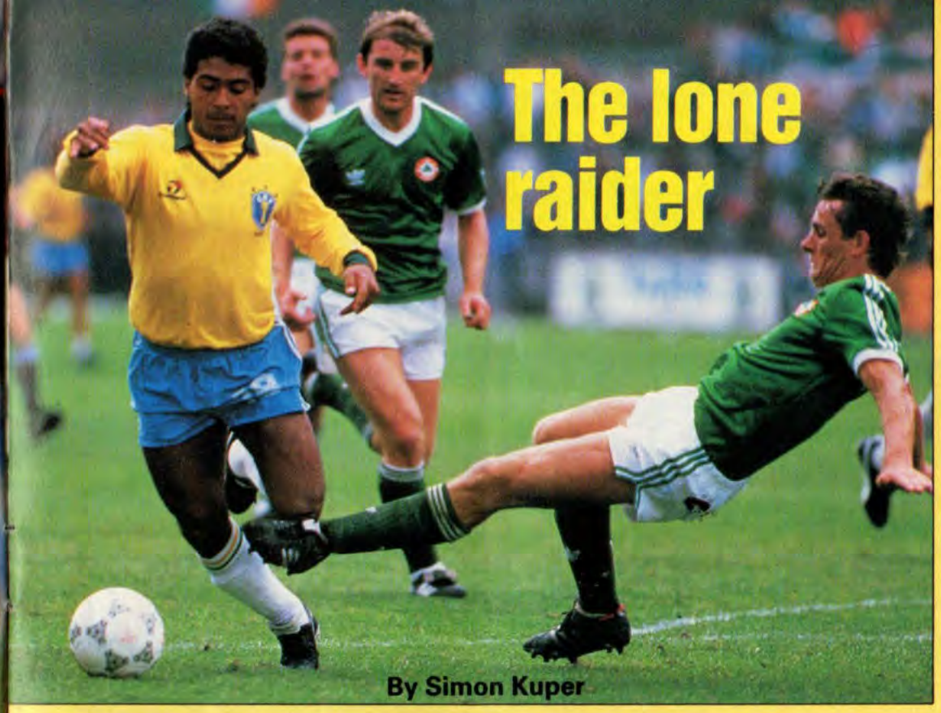
A lucrative contract with an Italian club would be a far cry from Mazinho's childhood in which he went through "a lot of suffering." His late father was a retired railway worker whose income was insufficient to bring up Mazinho and his six brothers and one sister.

He says: "When you come from a poor family, you see a lot of things that hurt you. I think that suffering is when you see your father wanting to give a good meal for everyone but not being able to – you eat a little, you want to eat a little more but there isn't any."

Things began to look up for Mazinho and his family when, in 1981 at 15, he was spotted by a Vasco scout and brought from his native Paraiba to Rio, nearly 2,000 miles away, for a trial.

Although he came to Rio with nothing, he was not worried about failing and being sent back.

"The best way to survive was to have faith that everything would work out, and in the end this happened."



The lone raider

By Simon Kuper

HE always feels cold, he doesn't speak the language, his beloved family live on the other side of the earth, some of his teammates dislike him and he is racing to recover from a broken leg, but the Brazilian international Romario has scored astonishing numbers of goals for PSV Eindhoven.

Romario's record reveals his greatness. Since signing for PSV in October 1988, he has scored 51 goals in 52 official matches and 37 in 37 league matches. He has also scored prolifically for Brazil: the exact tally depends on what you count as an official international match, but by one reckoning he has 19 goals in 28 internationals. This includes the only goal in this year's Copa de America final against Uruguay.

The tiny striker (he is a slightly thinner version of Maradona) was born in Rio de Janeiro. After starting his career with Olario, he joined Vasco de Gama at 14. Romario attracted the attention of European clubs at the Seoul Olympics, where he was the tournament's highest scorer with seven goals. PSV signed him despite competition from several Southern European sides, thanks to the help of Philips' branch in Brazil. The Dutch club paid £3 million for him – a Brazilian record, but few doubt that Romario was worth it.

Yet some people at PSV are critical of Romario. It is said that he moves too little off the ball, so that although he scores freely himself he creates no chances for other players. Indeed, he has only given one assist in the league this season.

He is in his element in home matches, when he usually finds himself in the other team's penalty area, but he is almost useless away from home, stranded on the halfway line.

PSV's manager Guus Hiddink worries a lot about the problem: "In Holland, strikers move to get the ball. In Brazil, only the player on the ball moves. He beats a man, then he passes to a teammate who also tries to beat a man. Romario should take more initiative. He must stop moaning that people don't pass to him. It's up to him to make sure that they do."

Romario refuses to think about the problem. When people criticise his play, he answers, "My task is to score goals and not to run up and down the pitch 100 times." The critics have gone quiet recently, particularly after Romario's unforgettable hat-trick which helped PSV beat Steaua Bucharest 5-1.

His greatest problem is with the Dutch themselves. "People here don't seem to care about anything", he complains. "They are loners and very serious people."

For their part, the staid Dutch cannot understand the mentality of a man who gets married on the penalty spot of a football ground.

Romario is looking forward to the World Cup, when he will be among compatriots again. However, he is not sure of his place in the Brazilian side for the World Cup.

The country have many excellent strikers – Careca, Bebeto and Muller, to name but three – and Romario will miss Brazil's first match because he was sent off in a World Cup qualifier against Chile.

He punched a Chilean defender in the face in the third minute; you may think the referee was right to send him off for this, but after the match Romario showed bite-marks that the Chilean had left on his chest!

Careca will let his goals do the talking

By Luca De Angelis

IT'S NOT that Careca hates the media – just that he hates talking to them.

Brazil's star striker tries to avoid any contact with the Italian and foreign press – even with some Brazilian magazines.

It all started when he could not play in the 1982 World Cup in Spain. Some 'experts' declared he had some "psychological problem", when he had strained a muscle.

One man wrote that he had grown yellow (in Brazilian "amarelou"), which means he was not injured, he was too nervous to be part of his national team.

Mistrust erupted again earlier this season when he was heavily criticised by an Italian sport paper, after Napoli's 5-1 defeat by Werder Bremen. He was described as a "flabby rabbit", who never found his courage.

What do you think of the Italian media?

"Italian reporters are always exaggerated. Today you are a star, tomorrow, who knows?" And not only to foreign players: take for instance what they wrote about Baggio."

It's been reported you are leaving for the USA?

"I didn't know that a simple conversation with Pele could be so misleading."

Do you agree with reporters only when they express a positive opinion about you?

"That's false. Many times I didn't speak to reporters even after scoring three goals."

We haven't seen the "real" Careca for a long time. Why?

"I could justify myself because I am tired and injured, but the truth is that – Napoli – are not playing as they used to. Even Maradona has problems."

Will Brazil have World Cup problems?

"Now I am really sure Brazil can win the World Cup. I am sorry for my many Italian friends, but I want to be the kingpin and help my country win the Cup."

Claudio Andre Mergen TAFFAREL. Goalkeeper. Aged 24. Internacional (Porto Alegre). Star of Brazil's 1985 World Youth Cup-winning side, who defeated Spain 1-0 after extra-time in the final in Moscow. Also Brazil's talismanic goalkeeper when they won the South American championship against Uruguay in Rio last year.

Jose Carlos Nepomuceno MOZER. Centre back. Aged 29. Marseille (Fr) – whom he joined a year ago from Portuguese champions Benfica. Began his top-flight career at Flamengo, whom he helped to victory in 1981 in both the South American club cup and the World club cup (Flamengo beat Liverpool 3-0 in Tokyo).

BEBETO (Jose Roberto Gama de Oliveira). Midfield/attack. Aged 26. Vasco da Gama. Nicknamed the 'New Zico' after exploding on the Brazilian scene in 1982. A key figure in last year's South America title triumph. Began with Flamengo.

VALDO Candido Filho. Midfield. Aged 26. Benfica (Port) – whom he joined in a controversial transfer from Gremio of Porto Alegre. A late selection in Brazil's 1986 World Cup squad after Toninho Cerezo was injured. But he did not make his senior debut until the 1-1 draw at Wembley a year later.

ALEMAO (Ricardo Rogerio De Brito). Midfield. Aged 28. Napoli (It). Made his name with Botafogo and moved to Napoli via Atletico Madrid. Superb in support of Maradona and Brazil team-mate Careca when Napoli won the UEFA Cup last year. Alemao made his Brazil debut in 1983, when Benfica first tried to lure him away.

DUNGA (Carlos Caetano Verri). Midfield. Aged 26. Fiorentina (It). Began with Rio club Vasco da Gama and made his international debut as a second half substitute in Brazil's 1-1 draw against England in 1987. Began with Internacional and moved to Italy via Corinthians, Santos and Vasco da Gama.

WORLD SOCCER

BINDER OFFER

Keep your WORLD SOCCER magazines safe and tidy in this superb red PVC Binder. Holds 12 copies.

Price £6.00. Overseas post plus £1 p&p.

WORLD SOCCER BINDER OFFER

Please send me ..... binders. I enclose a cheque/PO for ..... made payable to IPC Magazines Ltd.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

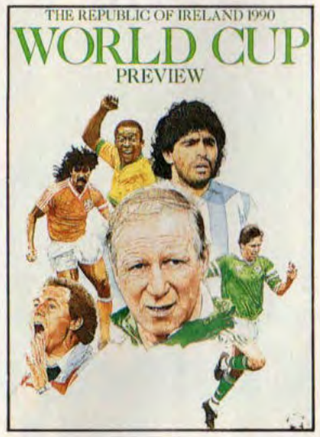
.....Postcode.....

Allow 28 days for delivery. If you do not wish to spoil your magazine a photocopy of this form may be used.
Send to: Ablex, Harcourt, Halesfield 14, Shropshire TF7 4QR.

The OFFICIAL World Cup Preview 1990

IS NOW ON SALE!

THREE GREAT EDITIONS



Only £2.95p

Each features a great World Cup competition. Winner will receive a luxury trip for two to Sardinia to see all three of England's Group F games against Republic of Ireland; Holland and Egypt. Prize to be presented on TV ... and that winner could well be a World Soccer reader.

All readers ordering any one of these superb publications will automatically be entered into the prize draw. 10 winners will receive a copy of all three editions. The England version will be personally signed by 1966 World cup winning captain Bobby Moore.

Price £2.95p each (including p&p). Make cheque or postal order payable to: CPH Printing Ltd. and send to: CPH House, 75 Princedale Road, London W11 4NS. Or telephone: 0898 700993.

WORLD CUP PREVIEW 1990
ORDER COUPON

Please send me the England..... Scotland.....
Republic of Ireland ..... World Cup 1990
Preview. I enclose cheque/postal order
for..... to cover cost and postage.
(£2.95p each – £8.85p for all three).

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

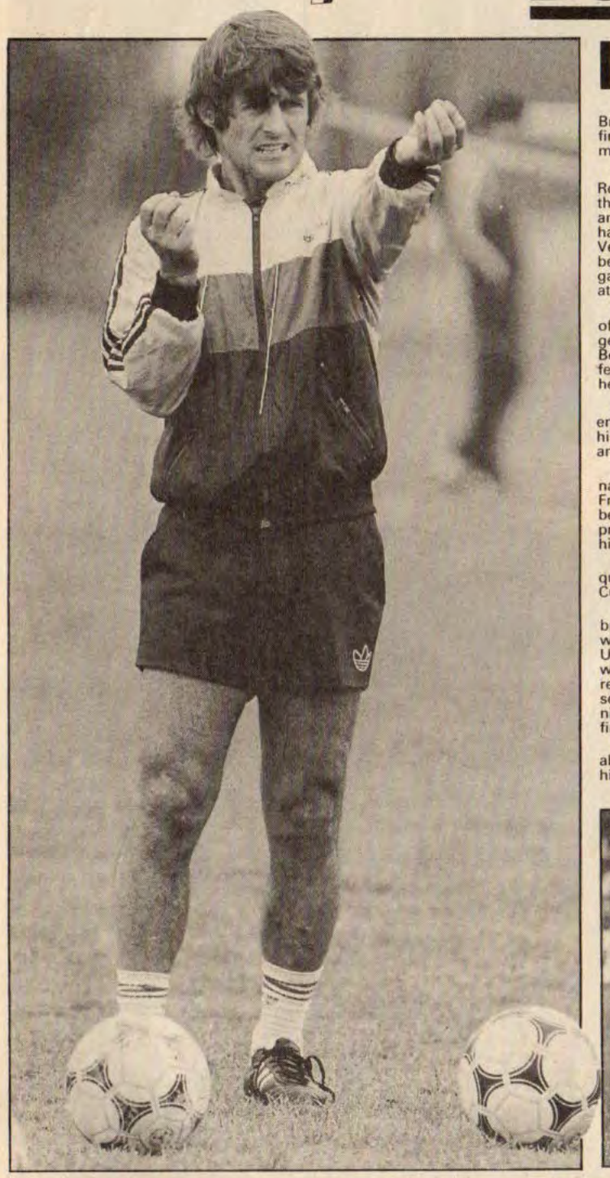
.....Postcode.....

WSMAY90

ITALIA'90 WORLD CUP COUNTDOWN

COSTA RICA GROUP C

Bora the Fourth!



IT'S AN ill wind which blows nobody any good – even when Costa Rica sack their manager.

Costa Rica, challengers to Scotland, Brazil and Sweden at the World Cup finals in Italy, have gone through three managers so far.

The last to go was Marvin Rodriguez, who saw them safely through the last qualifying matches and into the finals for the first time. He has been replaced by a man named Velibor Milutinovic but who may be better remembered by the world game as the manager of hosts Mexico at the 1986 finals.

Mexicans find his name somewhat of a mouthful so Milutinovic is generally known in Latin America as Bora. That may prompt thoughts of a few unkind puns among the media here. But Bora is anything but boring.

He is gracious, kind, football enthusiast who treats his players as his "boys" and will talk football with anyone ready to listen.

Bora also speaks (apart from his native Serbo-Croat), Spanish, Russian, French and English. As such he should be well qualified to charm the British press contingent likely to descend on him as the finals draw ever closer.

He does possess other qualifications for working at the World Cup.

One of those is the memory of a brief period spent coaching in Italy, with Udinese, back in 1987. Unfortunately, Bora landed up at the wrong club. Udinese had been relegated at the end of the previous season as a direct consequence of a nine-point penalty inflicted following a financial scandal.

Let there be no doubt, however, about Bora's knowledge of football or his ability to put that across to his players. Now 48, Bora is a member of the famous Milutinovic footballing family of Yugoslavia.

His elder brother was Milos Milutinovic, who played centre-forward for Yugoslavia in the World Cup finals of 1950 and later starred in France for Racing Club of Paris.

Milos also managed Yugoslavia in the 1986 World Cup qualifiers. Had they qualified for Mexico he and Bora would have claimed a unique record of brothers managing separate teams at the same World Cup.

Bora was not such a fine player as his brother. He played three times for Yugoslavia at youth level and his club football with Partizan Belgrade.

Later he moved to France, via Winterthur in Switzerland. In France he played inside forward and in midfield for Monaco and Nice.

Wandered

Following the example of many of his fellow countrymen, Bora then wandered to Latin America to play for Universidad Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM), one of the greatest of Mexican clubs. He intended to stay, in his words, "only a year – 18 months at the most."

But after marrying a local girl he settled in Mexico City and duly became UNAM coach – twice taking them to the championship and twice to the Central American Club Cup (equivalent of the European Champions' Cup).

That earned him the hosts' national team job for the World Cup where he took Mexico to the hitherto unchartered reaches of the quarter-finals.

Now, four years later, Bora is welcome back on that World Cup stage – not least by the international media!

Costa Rica stopper Mauricio Montero (left) in command against El Salvador in a World Cup qualifier they won 1-0.

Jorge HIDALGO. Goalkeeper. Aged 26. CS Herediano (from Heredia). One of the backbone of the Herediano club who have won the championship a record 20 times. Proved his strong nerves when injury to Cornejo brought him World Cup debut as a 35th-minute substitute in the 1-1 home draw against Trinidad and Tobago.

Juan CAYASSO Reid. Midfield. Aged 29. Deportivo Saprissa. A member of the Costa Rica squad which performed with distinction at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, their first appearance on a major international stage.

Roger FLORES. Centre back. Aged 33. Deportivo Saprissa. A national hero in June, 1988, when his goal beat top Italian club Roma in a 'friendly' which saw the expulsion of three Roma players. Scored an even more important goal in the 2-1 win over Guatemala which revived Costa Rica's World Cup qualifying campaign.

Johnston is happy being back with the goldfish

BY ALAN FAIRLEY

JUST over twelve months ago, life appeared ideally simplistic for Scotland striker Maurice Johnston. Playing for F.C. Nantes in France, firmly established in the Scottish international team and living in a superbly appointed villa in the French countryside with his girlfriend Karen and newly born baby daughter Dionne, he was enjoying the type of existence which his former team-mates in the Glasgow junior side Milton Battlefield could only dream about.

Then, during a crazy three month period in the summer of 1989, events involving the player not only turned his own life upside down but succeeded in breaking a tradition which had constituted one of the main talking points in relation to Scottish club football for over a century.

Despite, the apparent Utopia of Johnston's way of life in France, his contract with Nantes was coming to an end and already talks had begun with regard to a possible move to the big money leagues of either Italy or West Germany.

Struggling

But in May 1989 a major surprise was made known to the footballing world that Johnston had decided to return to Glasgow to rejoin his former club Celtic, who were at that time struggling to keep pace with big spending city rivals Rangers.

The decision in itself was surprising in view of Johnston's previous experiences out of Glasgow. A number of personal factors having rendered it impossible for him to both play and live in that divided city, where the private lives of top Rangers and Celtic players are placed constantly under the public microscope.

Only a matter of weeks after Johnston had been paraded around Celtic Park in a public relations exercise which had led to him being revered by the Parkhead fans in the manner normally afforded to a returning Messiah, however, came the bombshell which struck the very foundations of Scottish football.

The signing which no-one believed could ever happen, happened; squeezing through a loophole in the agreement which he had made with Celtic, Johnston turned his back on the club which he had once described as the only one he had ever wanted to play for, in order to join their bitter rivals Rangers.

His unprecedented u-turn was a significantly newsworthy event in isolation but even more important was the fact that Rangers, a club which had been steeped in hard-line Protestant tradition for 114 years, had finally signed a Roman Catholic.

Immediately, the repercussions began; lifelong Rangers supporters reacted by publicly tearing up season tickets, burning scarves and even lay wreaths at the front door of Ibrox Stadium to signify their protest at the death of a doctrine.

Many vowed never to watch the team again and, for a while, manager Graeme Souness must have wondered if his brave gamble had been justified. But all uncertainties were cast aside as Johnston made his home debut for Rangers in a pre-season friendly against Tottenham Hotspur, clearly winning over the bulk of the capacity Ibrox crowd as he contributed to a comfortable victory over the highly rated London side.

Teaming up with the free scoring Ally McCoist in the Ibrox forward line, Johnston took time to settle in to the team but after a few initial doubts had been raised regarding his willingness to perform for Rangers, he silenced his critics in the most emphatic manner by scoring a spectacular last minute winner against Celtic in last October's Old Firm league match.

Since then he has scored regularly for the club, his goal tally having helped Rangers to their third Scottish League championship in four seasons.

Born in Glasgow in 1963, Johnston began his career with Partick Thistle, quickly attracting the attention of many larger clubs as he fired in goals on a regular basis for the Firhill side.

It was Graham Taylor, then manager of Watford, who secured his signature in 1983 for a fee of £200,000. Johnston was an instant success with the rejuvenated Hertfordshire club, helping them to their first ever F.A. Cup Final in 1984 and, around the same time, becoming the first Watford player ever to be capped for Scotland when he made a scoring debut at Hampden against Wales.

Dream move

After a year at Vicarage Road, however, he professed a desire to return to Scotland and Celtic manager Billy McNeill was quick to step in, helping the player to fulfil his boyhood dream of wearing the colours of the team he had always supported. Following the disappointment of the 1984 F.A. Cup final when Watford had lost to Everton, Johnston won Scottish League and Cup medals while with Celtic before his disenchantment with the Glasgow "goldfish bowl" caused him to export his talents to Nantes.

His successful spell in France was followed by the historic and controversial transfer activities which took place last summer and which saw him return to his home town to play for Rangers.

Johnston's international career has not been without its talking points; after making his debut against Wales in 1984, he helped Scotland qualify for the 1986 World Cup in Mexico with two brilliantly taken goals in a crucial 3-1 win over Spain at Hampden during the qualifying programme. Caretaker manager Alex Ferguson chose, however, not to include him in the party which travelled to Mexico, a decision which, many felt, related more to the player's alleged off-field activities than to his on-field skills.

He managed to fight his way back into the national side after Ferguson had handed over managerial responsibility to Andy Roxburgh and an exceptional individual scoring sequence in the 1990 qualifying tournament, featuring goals in successive matches against Norway, Yugoslavia, Cyprus, France and Cyprus (again), helped lay the foundation for Scotland's notable achievement in reaching the finals for the fifth consecutive time.

Undoubtedly the most charismatic Scottish forward since the days of the legendary Denis Law, Mo Johnston will be looking to "Italia 90" as the stage on which to draw the attention of the world to his talents.

Trevor Brooking selects his key player

SCOTLAND really have shown remarkable consistency is qualifying for the last few World Cups, but have then been disappointing in the final stages.

So can they do any better this time round?

I'm sure Andy Roxburgh still has some positions still open for selection, but one player I feel must always be a vital part of any side he sends out is Richard Gough of Rangers.

I first became impressed with Richard's qualities when Spurs brought him to London, and he soon became a firm favourite with the White Hart Lane crowd.

His subsequent return to Scotland with Rangers has seen him play a significant part in the great defensive record achieved by Graham Souness's team.

This world-class defender certainly played a key role in his club's Championship success.

Gough appears to play equally well in central defence or as a full-back, but personally I prefer the latter as it seems to allow him that little more freedom to drift into those dangerous attacking excursions he loves so much.

He has scored some important goals with this adventurous approach, and who could forget those two strikes against Cyprus which snatched victory so dramatically.

In Italy the successful sides must include players of Gough's calibre as goals may be harder than ever to find.

Of course, his defensive duties are still the priority, but he has shown in the past his anticipation and composure will be great.

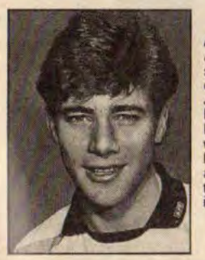
So at 28 years-of-age, Gough should be at his peak, with his experience and energy a key factor if Scotland are to improve on those previous World Cup exits.

RICHARD GOUGH

Alex McLEISH. Centre back. Aged 31. Aberdeen. One of Scotland's stalwarts with more than 60 caps to his name since making his debut a decade ago against France. McLeish began as a midfielder but his strength and power in the air made him ideal for centre-back. Born in Glasgow. Newly-elected Footballer of the Year.

Maurice MALPAS. Left back. Aged 27. Dundee United. One of the most reliable fullbacks in the British game and a regular target for spies from England. Likes to support his attack but is exceptionally quick to recover if things go wrong. Made his international debut six years ago against France. A one-club man.

Steve NICOL. Midfield. Aged 28. Liverpool. Was voted Footballer of the Year in England for his tireless role in Liverpool's tragedy-scarred 1988-89 season when they won the FA Cup and came within 90 seconds of adding the League championship as well. Utility expert who joined Liverpool from Ayr United in 1981.



Ally McCOIST. Striker. Aged 27. Rangers. His successful goalscoring club partnership with Mo Johnston has helped Rangers to their third League Championship win in four seasons. It has also ensured the pair are automatic choices as the Scotland strike force in Italy.

Paul McSTAY. Midfield. Aged 25. Celtic. One of the most talented Scottish players for years and regularly checked by the rich clubs of Italy as well as England. Captained Scotland in the World Youth Cup in Mexico. Made his senior international debut in a 2-0 win over Uruguay at Hampden in the autumn of 1983.

Murdo MacLEOD. Midfield. Aged 31. Borussia Dortmund. Tireless worker who made his name with Celtic and has since proved immensely popular and successful in West Germany – helping Dortmund towards a surprise cup final triumph over Werder Bremen last year. Possesses a powerful shot and can also play sweeper.

SEE THE WORLD CUP FINAL FREE

Plus 4 star accommodation in Rome centre and return air travel for two people

Give us your selection of the four 1990 World Cup Semi-Finalists and win this fabulous prize

DIAL
0836 405 491
NOW!

If engaged try our second line
0836 405 191

*Calls charged at 38p peak: 25p off peak

A Tildrew Production SE16 1AA

ITALIA'90 WORLD CUP COUNTDOWN

SWEDEN — GROUP C

Ekstrom can't help being a winner

BY NICK BIDWELL

IF it had been a boxing match rather than a European Champions' Cup soccer semi-final, the referee would have had valid reasons for calling a halt to proceedings in order to prevent Barcelona defenders from enduring further punishment.

The Swedes of IFK Gothenburg had made a considerable down payment on a final place thanks to a 3-0 win in the first leg. Now in the return the rapier-like thrusts of the 'Angels' were threatening to thwart the ambitions of Terry Venables' men.

Tormentor-in-chief of the Catalans that night was one Johnny Ekstrom, a tall, gawky young attacker, his blond locks blowing in the breeze as he mesmerised the likes of Alexanco, Migueli and Sanchez and powered two strikes against the woodwork.

It was, however, to be a bitter-sweet evening for Ekstrom. On a personal level he had given an outstanding exhibition of his emerging talent – albeit without goals – but despite producing the better football, Gothenburg were finally to succumb to Barca on penalties.

Since those heady Gothenburg days, his club form in the colours of Empoli, Bayern Munich and currently Cannes has been characterised by proficiency rather than him flourishing in the role of mercenerial striker.

Yet for Sweden he has developed into a potent spearhead and one of the architects of his country's first World Cup qualification since bowing out of the preliminary group stage of the 1978 finals in Argentina.

National boss Olle Nordin seems to have plumped for a balanced front partnership of the pacy and subtle Ekstrom allied to the more physical presence of Mats Magnusson.

Certainly the Cannes player's mobility, predatory instincts and selflessness were well to the fore as the Swedes pipped England for pole position in their World Cup qualifying group.

The vital winner to extricate Sweden from a decidedly awkward confrontation in Albania bore his signature, while the return in Stockholm witnessed a second goal for the Scandinavians which carried Ekstrom's stamp of classy skill.

Sheffield Wednesday's Roland Nilsson played the ball into Ekstrom wide on the left-hand side of the Albanian penalty area. There seemed to be no tangible threat here. Ekstrom was nonchalantly running away from goal into a cul de sac.

Suddenly, showing the awareness of space and colleagues in support which all great players possess, he back-heeled a delightful pass to the advancing Nilsson, who promptly squared the ball for Klas Ingesson to sweep home.

Ekstrom, however, reserved his best World Cup performance for his nation's decisive 2-0 victory in Poland. First his goal-bound effort forced Tarazsiewicz to adopt the temporary guise of keeper and concede a penalty. Then after the break he scored a wonderful individualist effort.

Johnny Douglas Ekstrom was born on March 5, 1965 in Gothenburg, the spiritual home of Swedish soccer, and as his father had played at Third Division level it was hardly surprising that the offspring caught the football bug. Already by the age of eight he had signed for the schoolboy section of IFK Gothenburg, where he was to remain for some 13 formative years.

At the culmination of his schooldays, Sweden's status as a semi-professional soccer nation meant that he had to find a profession. Johnny began to study economics at Gothenburg University, but quite after two years to work as a hospital orderly and then was employed by ICA, a supermarket chain and IFK's sponsor.

Student

Working from seven till noon and training from three to five is probably not the ideal formula for a developing young player, but in no way was his burgeoning talent hindered.

Apart from his undoubtedly prominent part in Gothenburg's 1985-86 European Cup run, that term was effectively a tremendous promotional exercise for him. A tally of 13 goals allowed Ekstrom to become the top scorer in Sweden's 'Allsvenskan' and he was rewarded on April 30, 1986 with his first full cap in a 0-0 draw against Greece.

During the autumn of 1986 he played in IFK's opening two ties in their ultimately successful UEFA Cup campaign, but it was no bolt from the blue when he departed his native land to follow the path abroad to professionalism, previously trodden by such illustrious compatriots as Nordahl, Gren, Liedholm, Edstrom, Hellistrom and Nordqvist.

What was unexpected was his destination. His new home was to be Empoli, a little Tuscan town west of Florence.

"I received a good grounding at Gothenburg," said Ekstrom at the time. "But I have the opportunity to achieve a kid's dream of becoming a professional and playing against Maradona and Platini."

Yet euphoric beginnings with the newly-promoted club turned sour in his second season in Serie A. Empoli had been penalised five points as punishment for its involvement in a match-rigging operation, and although the club struggled to avoid the opening of the relegation trapdoor, the drop was inescapable. With goals from their Swedish import in short supply, Ekstrom was a convenient target for supporter discontent and he decided to leave.

Aided by the benefit of hindsight his subsequent transfer to Bayern Munich was barely a propitious move for a player whose confidence was at a low ebb. The quiet Ekstrom found the Bayern dressing room an inhospitable environment.

Bayern general manager Uli Hoeness declared that Ekstrom was unsuited to the physical and mental demands of the Bundesliga, claiming that he was too timid and intimidated by the often uncompromising attentions of German defenders. Naturally the subject of criticism does not share that opinion, preferring to apportion blame in a personality clash with coach, Jupp Heynckes.

Ekstrom says: "Heynckes did not rate me. He preferred Wohlfarth and Wegmann for the forward berths. However, when I did play, I think I proved that I was better than them."

Failing to fit the Bayern striker identikit as personified by the powerful forms of Karl-Heinz Rummenigge and Dieter Hoeness, he headed south for France and specifically Cannes.

Yet Cannes have plainly struggled in the lower echelons of the French league and Ekstrom has infuriatingly alternated between the mediocre and transient flashes of brilliance.

Since leaving Gothenburg, consistency has proved illusory at club level, while for Sweden he has matured into a most effective mainstay of the attack, finding the net 11 times in 29 appearances and showing himself to be an instrumental protagonist in his country's qualification for Italia 90.

Prytz has the Semi-finals in sight

BY ROSY BROGLIA

Robert Prytz has travelled right round Europe in his club career with Malmo, Rangers, IFK Gothenburg, Young Boys, Uerdingen and now Italy's Atalanta.

But he is worried that this experience has yet to be fulfilled at World Cup level.

Prytz says: "Our manager Olle Nordin is a good trainer. He has taken Sweden to the World Cup so that means he is doing well. Unfortunately, every time he comes to see me I don't play well."

What do you think of Sweden's World Cup group?

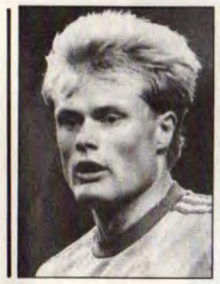
"I like it because we have got Scotland, where I used to play for three years and I still have alot of friends there. Scotland are a strong team, maybe not so skilful as us, but with a lot of pride like us, because they come from a small country.

"Costa Rica are a mystery. We don't know anything about them. But Brazil always play well in the World Cup.

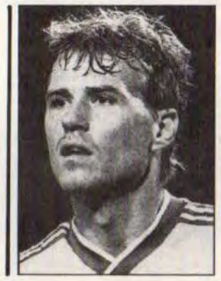
"Even so, I think we have a very good chance because we are a young team with alot of ambition and ability.

"We used to play like an English team but now we have alot of technical players who can do a lot of good things with the ball.

"Swedish people are very proud of themselves. In any sport they want to be the best. We must be on the top. That's why I think the last four will be Holland, Sweden, of course, Italy and West Germany."



Peter LARSSON. Centre back. Aged 29. Ajax Amsterdam (Hol). A resolute defender whose game has improved by leaps and bounds alongside the experienced Hysen. Both men played for the Rest of the World at Wembley in 1987 in the Football League centenary. Larsson began with Halmstad and then joined IFK.



Glenn HYSEN. Centre back. Aged 31. Liverpool (Eng). One of the top central defenders in Europe and a bargain at £650,000 when Liverpool boss Kenny Dalglish snapped him from Italian club Fiorentina. Nicknamed The Shark. Began with IFK Gothenburg, flirted with PSV of Holland and then went on to Italy.

Jan HELLSTROM. Forward. Aged 30. Norrkoping. Striker who runs the whole 90 minutes making life difficult for opposing defenders. Scored the equalising goal against Brazil in 1988. Previously with Orgtryte.

ITALIA'90

COLOMBIA

GROUP D

THE MAN IN HIGUITA'S SHADOW

BY KEITH SMITH

Nino prefers to remain on his goal-line rather than venture outside of the penalty area like a sweeper.

INEVITABLY in football, as in all walks of life, almost all of the credit and glory always goes to the star names and performers, while usually the understudy goes about his business in obscurity.

Thus as Colombia headed into their final World Cup effort, the least publicised and least debated position on the team was that of backup goalkeeper.

This, in itself, is hardly a surprise. Rene Higuita, profiled in the October issue of WORLD SOCCER, is one of the most recognisable figures in South American football and a phenomenon in Colombia in general. Even before the Libertadores Cup triumph, Higuita was revered in a way usually reserved for pop stars in Western Europe, with a legion of mostly female fans.

He has even managed to survive the media fallout arising from the disappointments of the Copa America and before the World Cup campaign began received the ultimate accolade.

In a survey of all the top politicians in Colombia, all bar none mentioned Higuita while talking about the prospects of the team – this in a country where few politicians profess to have a great understanding of the game.

In comparison with Higuita, it is almost inevitable that his deputy would be something of an unknown. Should Higuita become injured, the man expected to take his place is Eduardo Nino, a star from Colombia's 1987 South American junior triumph and from the Independiente Santa Fe club from Bogota.

A bigger contrast in styles, temperament and good fortune – especially in 1989 – couldn't be imagined. Nino's style and manner is much less flamboyant than Higuita.

Nino's build is also more in keeping with the 'classic' goalkeeper mould (he is six foot one and 11st 8lb compared with Higuita's five foot ten and 11st frame).

Nor is Nino particularly famous for dispatching penalties or playing the odd game in midfield. In short, nobody is going to liken Eduardo Nino to Hugo Gatti, the recently retired Boca Juniors goalkeeper.

In fact, the only time that he has made the news recently came last year when he was sent-off in a local derby against Millonarios, in a poorly refereed game and then again when

Nino (above) is putting the pressure on Higuita (left).

he left the Colombian bench in their World Cup game in Paraguay in an attempt to rescue Higuita who had been caught in the middle of a melee involving all of the Colombian team, local journalists and photographers plus the local police.

He appeared on Colombian television the next night with several large scars across his back, apparently the result of a police attack.

Nino endured a horrendous 1989. A pre-season injury forced him out of early season action allowing Fernando Hernandez, himself a solid and reliable keeper and also a product of the club's youth scheme, to establish himself as Santa Fe's number one.

Nino eventually returned, but was far from fit and behind a now feeble back four – resulting in an almost inevitable loss of confidence. To compound his problems, Nino was then called into the Colombia squad for the Copa America and the World Cup. While the chance to represent one's country is one of the highest honours in the game, in this case it only served to deny him the match practice that he needed to rebuild his confidence.

In a 26-game period up until the end of September, Higuita started in-all but one game, and Medellin keeper Fabio Calle started in the other.

In one of those ironic twists of fate, the man most likely to take away his place in the national team squad on a long-term basis is his team mate Hernandez, the same man who was keeping Nino out of a regular place when he returned to his club at the end of September.

The uneven distribution of wealth within the Colombian game, or distribution of poverty one might say, means that the chances of a player like Nino playing outside of one of the four major cities (Bogota, Cali, Medellin or Barranquila) are remote.

Junior from Barranquila and Independiente from Medellin have both reportedly shown interest though whether either could afford the fee Santa Fe might demand is another question.

One team never afraid to spend money is Millonarios, Santa Fe's deadly rivals, but who themselves have several quality goalkeepers chasing one place. Their first choice is Sergio Goycochea, an Argentine international on loan from River Plate with a contemporary of Nino's, Omar Franco as reserve.

Perhaps the main source of comfort for Nino, and some of his contempories, is the example of a young Medellin born goalkeeper who struggled unsuccessfully to become Millonarios's first choice some four years ago.

He may not have the charisma of a Higuita but maybe Nino's career will come back on track and flourish in the way that Higuita's has.

Luis Carlos PEREA. Centre back. Nacional's club captain. Aged 26. Big and strong central defender who has played more than 50 times for Colombia at senior, youth, Olympic and other representatives levels. He was sent off in Colombia's opening 2-0 win over Bolivia in last summer's South American finals.

Arnoldo IGUARAN. Forward. Millonarios. Aged 33. Four-goal top scorer in the 1987 South American championship in Argentina and collected three more in the 1989 finals in Brazil. One of the finest of home-grown attackers though he had a spell in Venezuela with Tachira before establishing

Carlos VALDERRAMA. Midfield. Montpellier (France). Aged 27. The 1987 South American Footballer of the Year – a crown he earned with his outstanding displays in that year's South American finals. Also known as the 'South American Gullit' because of his exotic hairstyle! Made his name with Deportivo Cali.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

GROUP D

UAE celebrate after drawing 1-1 with South Korea. The draw was enough to send them to Italia 90.

Emirates look to the other Carlos Alberto

WHEN Carlos Alberto's name is mentioned, someone always asks: "Is he the Carlos Alberto?" – meaning Carlos Alberto Torres, Brazil's 1970 World Cup skipper.

The simple answer is No. The United Arab Emirates boss is Carlos Alberto Parreira.

He took Kuwait to the World Cup Finals in 1982 where they emerged with a 1-1 draw against Czechoslovakia, a narrow 1-0 loss to England and a 4-1 defeat to a French team then just approaching the zenith of its powers.

"It will be no picnic in Italy. Yet I would not have risked my reputation if I felt that the UAE will be a disaster in Italy," said the Brazilian on his arrival in Dubai in April 10 to take charge of a team, which had sacked two coaches in two months.

First, Parreira's countryman Mario Zagalo was sacked. Two months later his successor, Poland's Bernard Blaut, followed after the UAE's disastrous show in the Gulf Cup in Kuwait.

This is the second time Parreira has found himself in charge of the UAE, though he has only accepted this stint for three months. His first assignment with the UAE lasted four years, before he was lured away by Saudi Arabian petro-dollars, defection strained relations between the soccer authorities of two normally

neighbourly Gulf countries.

"I might not return to the UAE after the World Cup is over," he said. "I want to devote more time to my family. This is likely to outweigh all other considerations in making a decision after the World Cup."

The United Arab Emirates are facing West Germany, Yugoslavia, and Colombia, whom Parreira regards as difficult enough to tax even a strong team like Brazil. He says: "The competition is difficult not only for the UAE but also for others. It is a big achievement for the UAE to qualify for the finals, so let's go there and enjoy the competition. It will make things easier for the boys. I do not want to put any unnecessary pressure on them."

Parreira's 15-years of coaching in the Gulf includes Kuwait, as well as Saudi and the UAE.

Parreira will be taking over virtually the same team he left two years ago. He considers that an advantage. "I do not foresee problems in dealing with the team as it is almost the same one which I left in 1988.

"I will also hardly change the style of play adopted by Zagalo as our methods are basically the same."

Parreira is receiving a reported $100,000 for taking charge of the team for three months. He dismisses claims that the turmoil has ruined the team's hopes of turning in a creditable performance.

"We have exactly two months to get our bearings right, and I feel that this is adequate for the boys to get in shape," he said. "Of course it would have been much better if the players had trained together after the Gulf Cup, but I still think the time is reasonable."

Parreira admitted that the 6-1 loss against Kuwait in the Gulf Cup was a shameful result, but a similar reverse by the World Cup against West Germany or Yugoslavia will not be viewed as disastrous or disgraceful.

"UAE, or for that matter the other Asian countries, including the other World Cup finalist South Korea, are not in the same league as the Europeans or South Americans. I cannot envisage an Asian team to challenge the present domination of European and South American teams for decades."

Salim Rabeea takes on the Chinese defence.

Adnan Al TALYANI. Midfield. Aged 26. Al Shaba. Most versatile member of the squad. He can play deep in midfield or up alongside his centre forward. Also proved in the qualifiers that he can score vital goals.

Mubarak Ghanim MUBARAK. Centre back. Aged 27. Al Ahly. Good in the air for an Emirates defender, a vital quality since manager Zagalo is well aware of the problems European teams in particular can pose.

Abdul Razaq IBRAHIM. Midfield. Aged 23. Al Ahly. One of the Emirates' top scorers in the World Cup qualifying rounds, albeit with 'only' three goals. Dangerous at free kicks and with long-range shots.

ITALIA'90
WORLD CUP COUNTDOWN
GROUP D

WEST GERMANY

Moller scores against Finland.

Möller can turn the Italians green

BY TIM MANSEL

ANDY MOLLER will possess a curiosity value all his own at the World Cup. He is the star who turned down a lucrative Italian offer to stay in the Bundesliga.

Moller, 22, currently with Borussia Dortmund, had two meetings with officials from Juventus before pledging his future to Eintracht Frankfurt, the club he left after a handful of league games to join Dortmund in 1987.

Now clubs and fans in Germany will be hoping that other players of the young generation will follow Moller's example rather than that of Lothar Matthaus, Andreas Brehme and Jurgen Klinsmann, (all Inter) and Thomas Berthold and Rudi Voller (both Roma).

Like Moller, Thomas Hassler, 23, and Karl-Heinz Riedle, 24, are strong candidates for West Germany's World Cup starting line-up against Yugoslavia. And, like Moller, both the Koln midfielder and the Werder Bremen striker have been linked with Italian clubs, in their cases Roma and Milan. Both are players whose departure would represent a considerable loss to the quality of the West German game.

The deal which takes Moller back to Eintracht, a club he first joined at 13, was put together by businessman Wolfgang Steubing, chairman of local non-league rivals Rot-Weiss Frankfurt and a member of Eintracht, and Eintracht's own president Matthias Ohms. They made the rounds of colleagues on the Frankfurt stock exchange as well as dipping into their own pockets to raise the £1.7 million transfer fee.

Few Germany clubs are in a position to pay that kind of money, apart from Bayern Munich, who had also shown interest in Moller. But Bayern have, in the past two years, paid big fees for Olaf Thon and Jurgen Kohler.

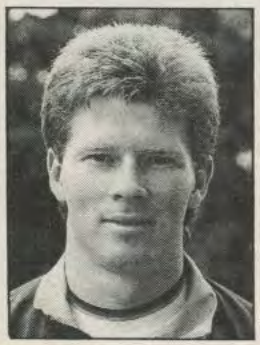
Whether Koln and Bremen can afford to hang on to Hassler and Riedle respectively must be a matter of doubt.

Moller is an attractive ball player with vision, the ability to play the long ball and a good shot. He made his league debut at the end of the 1985/86 season and his full international debut against the Soviet Union shortly after the 1988 European Championships.

He made a great impression in that game, although the side had been weakened by the lack of a number of Olympic participants and other regulars. In his second season with Dortmund, Moller helped them to a cup win over Werder Bremen and hence into Europe.

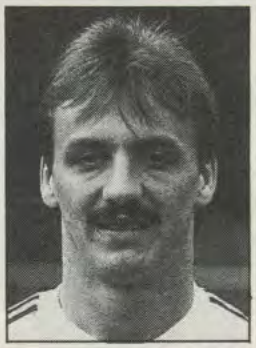
He will rejoin Eintracht at a time when the club are enjoying a considerable revival. Frankfurt won the cup in 1988 but never recovered from the sale of playmaker Lajos Detari on the eve of last season, and were nearly relegated.

A starring role for Moller at the World Cup will help put Eintracht firmly back on the map.



Stefan REUTER. Left back/defensive midfield. Aged 23. Bayern Munich. Olympic and under-21 cap who joined Bayern from Nurnberg in a £1.4 million deal with Roland Grahammer. Made his West Germany debut in a goalless draw against Italy in 1987. Just missed a place in the 1988 European championship squad.

Rudi VÖLLER. Centre forward. Aged 30 with more than 60 caps. Roma (It). Moved to Italy from Werder Bremen three years ago but has been a controversial exile in Rome because of injury. Völler's flight back to West Germany for treatment without the club's permission once earned him a £2,000 club fine.



Jurgen KOHLER. Stopper. Aged 24. Bayern Munich – whom he joined from Köln last summer after establishing himself as the best marking defender in the Bundesliga. Former Players' Player of the Year. His hero as a teenager was Karlheinz Förster, whose defensive place he has now taken in the national team.

Illgner haunted by one false move

BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

BODO Illgner is Franz Beckenbauer's first choice World Cup goalkeeper. But this declaration of faith has sparked controversy among managers, media and fans.

Illgner took over after the European Championship in 1988, Eike Immel had played in all four games. But his ultimatum to Beckenbauer that he should "never sit on a reserve bench", effectively ended his international career.

Illgner has not failed in national colours, but this season some of his displays for Koln have defied belief. The most amazing incident occurred in the 5-3 home league defeat by Eintracht Frankfurt.

Having let in two soft goals Illgner, in a desperate effort to redeem himself, stormed into Frankfurt's penalty area in vain pursuit of the ball. In a quick counter Eintracht's former international striker Dieter Eckstein scored from near the half-way line.

To make matters worse, Illgner's opposite number, Frankfurt's Uli Stein, was the reporters' hero. Now the clamour for Stein to be made West Germany's No. 1 is assuming deafening volume. But the veteran who fell out with Beckenbauer during the Mexico World Cup, and was sent home, is unlikely to be recalled while Illgner, is around.

Illgner, still only 23, was born on April 7, 1967 in Koblenz. He claims he was primarily helped by his parents in his quest to become a professional footballer. But he says his father never put pressure on him even when he gave up swimming as a competitive sport and later when father became youth coach with a modest FC Hardtberg, in a Bonn suburb.

Illgner played outfield, at first but was settled in goal when in 1984 he won with West Germany the European under-16 title. A year later he moved to Koln as understudy to Toni Schumacher.

Illgner might have waited forever, had it not been for Schumacher's revelations in his 1987 memoirs about drug-taking and sex sessions among top footballers. Schumacher was suspended, Illgner called up.

After just six Bundesliga games he was promoted to the national squad and six months after the Schumacher affair he made his debut in the 1-0 win over Denmark in Hamburg. He has also played seven times in the under-21s, 19 times in the A, and three times in the B youth national teams.

Illgner claims he is a perfectionist, which is why he tries to do more in training than the manager demands. He is a young man with perfect manners, the polite boy next-door, whom every mother would like to see her daughter marry.

At home he was never any trouble, at College he was outstanding and gained language degrees in German and English. No doubt about it, Bodo has matured beyond his years. That is why his inexplicable lapses in that Frankfurt game shocked everybody.

Illgner follows in a long line of superb keepers produced by West Germany since the war – such as Toni Turek, Fritz Herkenrath, Hans Tilkowski, Sepp Maier and Schumacher.

Illgner says his best teacher was Rolf Herings, the former West German javelin champion and one time temporary team manager at Koln, who is "the best trainer of goalkeepers that I know."

His biggest dream is to win the World Cup and the debate over Uli Stein leaves him cold, although Kicker's half-yearly ranking lists placed Stein first and Illgner only fourth behind Rudiger Vollborn (Bayer Leverkusen) and Andreas Kopke (Nurnberg).

Thankfully for Illgner, Beckenbauer remains unmoved, saying: "It would be unjust and unfair to axe Bodo Illgner or his reserve Raimond Aumann, after just one or two poor club games."

Lothar MATTHÄUS. Midfield. Aged 29. Internazionale (It). Captain of West Germany with more than 70 caps. Played for Borussia Mtnchengladbach then Bayern Munich before moving to Italy in 1988 and driving Inter to their first league title in nine years. Starred against Argentina in the 1986 World Cup Final.

Jurgen KLINSMANN. Striker. Aged 25. Internazionale (It) – whom he joined last summer from Stuttgart for £1.4 million. Former Footballer of the Year and West Germany's most dangerous attacker at the 1988 European championships. Made his international debut in a 1-1 draw away to Brazil in December, 1987.

Andreas BREHME. Right-side midfield. Aged 28 with more than 50 caps. Internazionale (It) – whom he joined from Bayern Munich after the 1988 European finals. Brehme's energy lifted the West Germans to the 1986 World Cup Final, along with his vital opening goal in the semi-final against France.

ADVERTISEMENT

ARE YOU A GENIUS AT FOOTBALL?

So you think you're pretty clever do you? You think you know all there is to know about football? Well now is your chance to prove it to the rest of the UK by playing in our trivia competition!

Every week we'll say who holds the high score, and if you hold it at the end of the month you'll win £250! So get your brains out, and get phoning on.....

0898 664305

A Voiceline production. Calls cost 25p (cheap rate) and 38p (at all other times) per minute inc. VAT. Voiceline Ltd., P.O.Box 1640, London NW1 8NP. You must get your parents permission before you dial.

ITALIA'90 WORLD CUP COUNTDOWN

YUGOSLAVIA

GROUP D

REFIK'S MIRACLE COMEBACK

BY MLADEN BILEC

FOR one Yugoslav footballer the World Cup presents an ideal opportunity to make up for lost time.

He is Refik Sabanadzovic. And if manager Ivica Osim gives him his chance in Italy the chances are that he will spend at least one World Cup moment thinking back to one day in 1987.

It was November 15. A new round of league fixtures were almost all played in front of empty terraces. In Sarajevo even Red Star drew only 7,000 Zeljeznicar fans whose loud jeers were aimed at Sabanadzovic, the national team midfielder.

Sabanadzovic then 22, had played too successfully for Zeljeznicar and was lured away by a lucrative Red Star contract just before the start of the season.

Yugoslav's most expensive player did not appear in the defeat by England in the European championship because of knee-trouble earlier on in the season. But he was making a great recovery for Red Star and was very highly rated by his new coach Vasovic.

The match started in a bad-tempered mood as relegation-fearing Zeljeznicar players steamed in on Dragan Stojkovic and Boro Cvetkovic.

One such duel brought disaster as Zeljeznicar's elegant attacker Zoran Sliskovic collided with Sabanadzovic.

The former Zeljeznicar star lay motionless but the referee let the game continue – certain, as was everybody else on the ground, that nothing serious had happened.

Velibor Vasovic was the first to realize that something dreadful was happening and he ran onto the pitch with Red Star's doctor at his heels.

Sabanadzovic's head had collided with Sliskovic's thigh. He had lost consciousness and swallowed his tongue. Vasovic and the doctor had saved his life but in hospital the player was found to be in a coma.

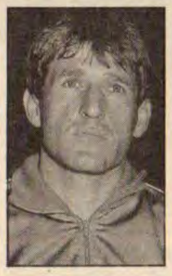
Nothing like it had ever happened in Yugoslav soccer. It seemed that the whole nation spent the following days by Sabanadzovic's hospital bed.

Fears grew until, after three days Sabanadzovic opened his eyes and recognized his relatives, later demanding to see Sliskovic.

He wanted to make certain that his former team-mate was cleared of any suspicions of intentional foul-play. That's just the spirit to grace a World Cup Finals.

Dragan STOJKOVIC. Midfield. Aged 24. Red Star Belgrade. The outstanding footballer in Yugoslavia now. Red Star signed him from a minor provincial club in exchange for a set of floodlights and his international recognition has included an appearance in the English Football League centenary match in 1987.

Srecko KATANEC. Centre back or defensive midfield. Aged 26. Sampdoria Genoa (Italy). National team backbone for the past seven years. Began in a 0-0 draw against France in 1983, played in the 1984 European finals and Olympics. Has played for Olimpija Ljubljana, Partizan and West Germany's Stuttgart.



Safet SUSIC. Midfield. Aged 32. Paris Saint-Germain (France). Recalled to duty after years in the wilderness just in time for the vital World Cup qualifier against France. Susic scored one goal and made another as the Slavs hit back from a goal down to win 3-2 – which proved their springboard to Italy.

Yugoslavia's Dragan Jakov Ljevic holds off the challenge of Norway's Rune Bratseth in their World Cup qualifier.

BELGIUM

GROUP E

MARC IS READY FOR STARDOM NOW

BY NICK BIDWELL

BARCELONA'S Nou Camp faithful began to sense that perhaps another European night of recovery was imminent after the Basque-born duo of Julio Salinas and Beguiristain had struck to cancel out Anderlecht's 2-0 Recopa first-leg advantage.

Catalan optimism was to be transitory, however, as up popped Belgian international striker Marc Van der Linden in extra-time to glance a right-wing cross past Zubizarreta as a veil of silence fell over the stadium.

Not only had Van der Linden ensured that Barcelona did not repeat their feat of 1978 when they overturned a 3-0 Anderlecht lead from the opening leg in the very same competition, but that all-important goal was also a symbol of the belated maturation of a player, who as a teenager had been earmarked as a future great.

Currently the holder of 16 full caps, he made his Belgium debut as a 19-year-old back in May 1983 in a friendly against France, but an insipid display led then national chief Guy Thys to regard the likes of Nico Claesen, Eddy Voordeckers, Filip Desmet and Danny Veyt as rather more reliable strike partners for Erwin Vandenbergh than the youngster.

For Van der Linden the road leading to international redemption proved to be a long one and only last year, after six seasons struggling to restore a career beset by problems of form and extra football difficulties, did he become a regular for the 'Diables Rouges'. Brought back into the squad by Thys as attacking cover for the Italia 90 qualifiers, his goals and generally impressive performances have allowed the Anderlecht man to secure a seemingly permanent front-line berth for his country.

On the bench for last February's visit to Portugal, he watched as an off-colour Belgium went a goal in arrears, before leaving his touchline seat late in the game to create a last-ditch equalizer for the evergreen Eric Gerets. There followed four goals against the hapless minnows from Luxembourg and two headed strikes at home to Portugal as Van der Linden toasted the team's new manager, Walter Meeuws.

The scorer of 15 goals last season for Antwerp, the summer saw him make a lucrative move to Anderlecht, where he is now teaming-up with fellow international Marc De Gryse in a potent attacking duo as the Brussels club seeks to reassert its national dominance after having been forced to accept second-best last term to John Cordier's Mechelen.

Moreover his swashbuckling style and unselfish play have rendered him a most popular figure at Parc Astrid. Not simply a penalty box operator, he is totally at ease in the role of target man with his back to goal, or while combining in delicate one-two play with the likes of Anderlecht's Jankovic, Nilis and Vervoort.

Marc Van der Linden was born in the town of Merksen on February 4 1964 and as is the case of innumerable continental youngsters, he signed for his hometown club while still at primary school. By the age of 16 he had developed into something of a local hero, netting goals with regularity. Beveren and Beerschot both made overtures to recruit him, but parental influence was to play a considerable role in the choice of his first professional club. His parents ran a bar a goal kick from the Antwerp ground and his father was a former player there. Not wanting to uproot, the young Van der Linden opted for the port club.

At Antwerp his progression was meteoric. Recently capped at national junior level, he made his first appearance for the first-team against Club Brugge in September 1982 and scored a consolation effort in his club's 3-1 loss. That season, under the firm hand of Yugoslav coach, Dimitri Davidovic, Van der Linden was a sensation, finding the net on no less than 17 occasions and earning the team a UEFA Cup spot.

Unconvincing

Reward came in May, 1983 in the form of a first selection for his country against France. The match took place in Luxembourg as part of the Grand Duchy federation's 75th anniversary celebrations, but this sunlit, spring evening was no joyous event for Van der Linden. For the very first time in a career marked by apparently effortless success, the sporting gods were not on his side. At that particular moment, he was undertaking his military service, and drained from the incessant demands of both army and club, his performance was thoroughly unconvincing and he was substituted by defender, Leo Clijsters after an hour.

He was destined to suffer three years of inconsistency and low morale, tormented by his failure to impose himself on the international scene. Van der Linden argues that expectations of him were grossly inflated.

"Too much was expected of me at Antwerp," he says. "Of course I was their goalscorer, but I was not mature enough. People forgot that I was only 19."

Van der Linden after scoring his sensational European Cup-Winners' Cup-tie winner against Barcelona.

Off the field too, he was dogged by controversy. A gregarious individual, he fell in with bad company and in 1987 was implicated in a stolen furs racket, but was ultimately cleared.

Van der Linden subsequently missed out on the 1984 European Championships and despite his efforts to create a favourable impression upon Guy Thys, he remained distinctly out of the international reckoning. That situation was confirmed two years on when the striker was omitted from the Belgian 22 for the Mexico World Cup.

As he admits, the turning point for him, both as player and individual, came with the arrival of Dutchman, Georg Kessler as Antwerp's new boss. 'Sir Georg', as this managerial bohemian is reverentially known in Belgium, is not renowned for tolerating ill-discipline amongst his ranks and Van der Linden was forced to knuckle down.

Successful

Kessler, whose previous clubs include Koln, AZ 67 of Alkmaar, Hertha Berlin and who is now at Standard Liege, was so successful in reviving Antwerp that during the two seasons of his reign the club twice qualified for Europe thanks to the renewed scoring touch of Van der Linden.

"When I heard the names of those players going to the 1986 World Cup, I said to myself that I should have been in the squad," says the striker. "I needed a boost and that came from Kessler."

With his confidence replenished, he was at first recalled to the national side in late 1987 for a European Championship tie against Luxembourg, before establishing himself during Belgium's victorious World Cup qualifying campaign.

After the years of self-doubt and unfulfilled potential, Van der Linden can at last relish his international consecration.

"I feel that I have finally become a regular for Belgium," he proudly says. "On paper we have a better team than in 1986, but we will have to confirm that in Italy."

Michel PREUD'HOMME. Goalkeeper. Aged 31. Mechelen. Former Belgian Footballer of the Year. Began with Standard Liege but missed the 1984 European championships and 1986 World Cup after being implicated in a match-fixing scandal. Key figure in the domestic and European emergence of Mechelen.

Jan CEULEMANS. Midfield. Aged 33 with more than 80 caps. Club Brugge. The 1980 and 1985 Footballer of the Year, a former league top scorer and Belgium's most influential player and national captain. Began with Lierse and cost Brugge a then Belgian record fee of £250,000 in the summer of 1978.

Patrick VERVOORT. Leftback/midfield. Aged 25. Anderlecht – whom he joined in 1987 from Beerschot after an excellent World Cup campaign in Mexico. Since joining Anderlecht, Vervoort has moved from leftback to midfield and earned a reputation for scoring vital goals, often from long range or from free kicks.

SOUTH KOREA GROUP E

'Samson' is the key man

SOUTH KOREA are pinning their World Cup hopes on a flamboyant midfielder known as 'Little Samson' who says the key to his strength, speed and skill lies in his long brown hair.

Kim Joo-sung will play a vital role in his country's opening round group E matches against Belgium, Spain and Uruguay, said team manager Lee Hoe-taik.

"He is technically a very skilful player able to break through solid defences and create goal-scoring chances," said Lee, whose side headed the tough Asian zone qualifying rounds last year to become the first Asian nation to qualify for two consecutive World Cup finals.

But Kim could grab the spotlight in Italy as much for his appearance as his soccer skills. He says: "There are some people who dislike my hair and want it cut, but how could a Samson with short hair be strong?"

Long hair on men is extremely rare in South Korea where even student radicals are well-barbered.

Born in 1966, in the mountain village of Yangyang in the east, Kim began playing soccer at the age of 11 and came to prominence in 1985 during an international tournament in Seoul. He said his failure to shine during the 1986 Mexico World Cup finals was due to inexperience.

South Korea held Bulgaria to a 1-1 draw, but were beaten 3-2 by Italy and 3-1 by Argentina.

"I had no experience of playing against such strong teams before going to Mexico. I was helpless at that time, but this time it will be different," he said.

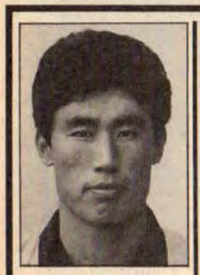
Kim, a midfielder with South Korea's Daewoo Royals, wants to join a European club after the World Cup. He says he has received offers from Austrian and Dutch clubs.

"It's my dream to play in Europe. A big fish should swim in a deep pond," he said.

Former national striker Cha Bum-kun, who played for West Germany's Eintracht Frankfurt and Bayer Leverkusen between 1979 and 1988, said Kim could excel in Italy.

"He was just a mediocrity several years ago. Now he has come of age and become the most talented player in Asia," Cha said. "But he needs to add some sparkle to his shooting skills if he wants to become a world-class star."

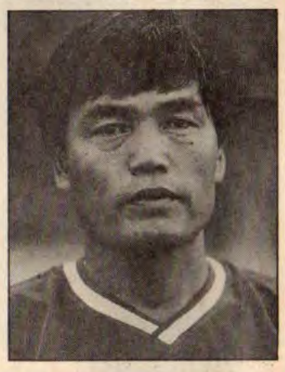
Although beaten 3-1 by Argentina in the 1986 World Cup finals, South Korea won many friends with their pace, skill and attacking football. Here HUH-Jung Moo gets to grips with Argentina's Ricardo Giusti.



KIM Poon-joo. Goalkeeper. Aged 25. Daewoo Royals. Was first-choice by the time it came to the final round of the Asian qualifiers. But in the earlier, group four, section Kim was considered the No 2 behind Cho Byung-deuk, whose experience as a veteran of the 1986 World Cup squad was highly prized.

PARK Kyung-hoon. Centre back. Aged 29. POSCO Atoms – who had to fight to hold on to him after the last World Cup finals. A defender who likes to attack. A regular member of the Korean squad for two years up to the 1986 World Cup finals, when he lined up for South Korea in all three matches in Mexico.

HWANG Bo-Kwan. Midfield. Aged 25. Yukong. A real hard-working schemer, with 21 caps to his credit. Was joint top scorer in the first qualifying tournament in Singapore with two goals! Has developed a reputation as a free-kick specialist which he proved with a 35 metre goal against Saudi Arabia.



Manager Lee Hoe Taik.

ITALIA'90 WORLD CUP COUNTDOWN

REP. OF IRELAND GROUP F

Big occasions are just the ticket for Whelan

ONE of the most successful and respected players in the English league, 28 year-old Ronnie Whelan is perfectly poised to make his mark in the international arena, and help the Republic of Ireland in their bid for glory in next month's World Cup finals.

Whelan, who joined Liverpool from Dublin side Home Farm in 1978, has been virtually ever-present in the Liverpool midfield through all their successes of the 'eighties.

Somewhat enigmatic then that his club form wasn't reflected in the national side until recently.

When his Liverpool career was already flying in the early eighties, he was frequently unlucky with injuries when international duty called. Whelan was first capped in a friendly against Czechoslovakia in 1981, but at that stage the team was doing well enough already under then manager Eoin Hand, narrowly missing out on qualification for Spain '82.

BY MICK DUNN

The following years, however, brought one of Ireland's worst spells. A disappointing qualifying campaign for the 1984 European Championship, followed by a dismal showing in their Mexico '86 qualifying group. When results weren't coming, there was the inevitable pressure on Hand and his players, and press accusations that the England-based stars were paying only token service to international duty. It was difficult for any player to establish himself in such circumstances, particularly so in Whelan's case.

The difference between playing for Liverpool and playing for the Republic at that time must have been enormous.

The 'new era' under Jack Charlton, who was appointed Irish manager in 1986, didn't begin in the best fashion for Whelan either. Charlton favoured Mark Lawrenson and Paul McGrath in midfield, rather than their more customary roles in the back four – leaving no room in that quarter for Whelan. Indeed his first competitive appearance under Charlton came when he was called upon to take the left-back position in a vital European tie away to Scotland early in 1987. Whelan filled the role splendidly on the night, helping Ireland to a memorable 1-0 win.

A few more appearances in that position followed while Charlton preferred to choose from Brady, McGrath and Lawrenson for the two central midfield positions.

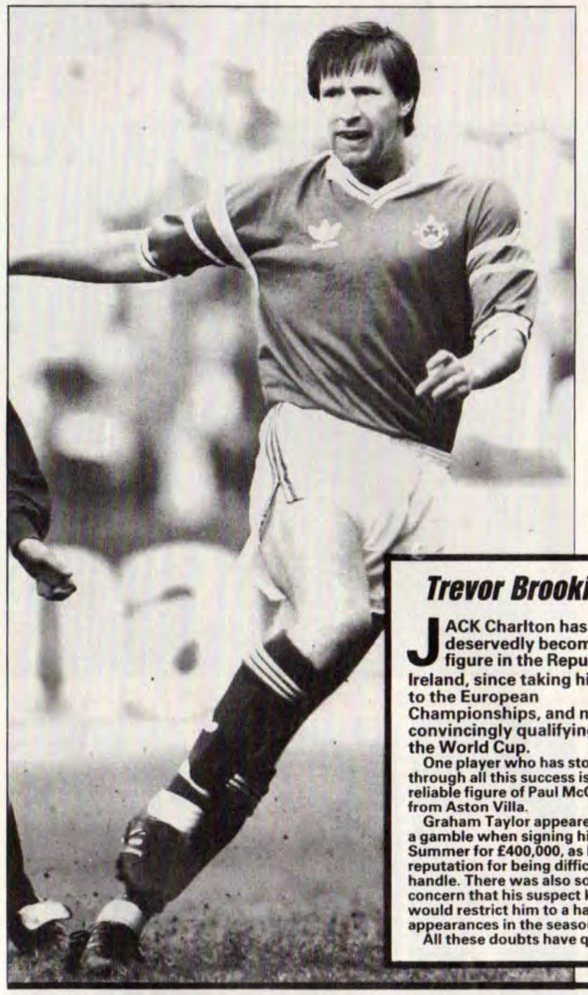
By the time the qualifiers were over and Germany '88 came around, injury had forced Lawrenson to retire and Brady was ruled out through suspension and injury. The manager's embarrassment of riches in the centre had dwindled. Whelan was back in his preferred role, and had an outstanding European Finals campaign.

Much will depend on him reproducing his best form during the World Cup. In what is now a more settled Irish side, Whelan is finally looking as comfortable in the green shirt as he has done for so long in the red of Liverpool.

While he may not get the captain's armband for the finals, one thing Whelan will bring to Italy is experience of the big occasion, having played in European Cup Finals, FA Cup Finals, League Cup Finals, and, of course, vital end-of-season league games. Also, like the rest of his Irish team-mates, the experience of playing in the last European Championship finals will have its value in the heat of Italy.

It might come as a mild surprise to many to note that Whelan's spectacular goal against the Soviet Union in the last European Finals was only his second goal for Ireland. The first came a year earlier in an away qualifier against Luxembourg, another long-range effort which flew past a crowded penalty area. His current tally stands at three – Northern Ireland being his latest 'victims'. At Liverpool he has averaged about one in six.

The way Ireland play, Whelan is as likely as anyone to score in Italy, though Ireland don't need to depend on him for goals.



Trevor Brooking selects his key player

JACK Charlton has deservedly become a cult figure in the Republic of Ireland, since taking his team to the European Championships, and now convincingly qualifying for the World Cup.

One player who has stood out through all this success is the reliable figure of Paul McGrath from Aston Villa.

Graham Taylor appeared to take a gamble when signing him last Summer for £400,000, as he had a reputation for being difficult to handle. There was also some concern that his suspect knee would restrict him to a handful of appearances in the season.

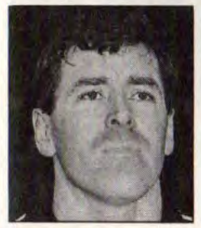
All these doubts have quickly faded away as his consistent performances have been a feature of Villa's fine challenge to Liverpool.

Most of his international games have found him in central midfield alongside Ronnie Whelan where they have proved such a solid foundation for Jack Charlton to build on.

In Italy he may find himself back in the middle of defence, as current players like Mick McCarthy, Kevin Moran and David O'Leary have all suffered at club level with injuries or team selection.

Wherever he plays McGrath's tenacious and composed covering will be crucial if his manager is once again to return to Dublin to yet another hero's welcome.

Paul McGrath



Paddy BONNER. Goalkeeper. Aged 30. Celtic. Well used to the big occasion thanks to his experience of Glasgow's Old Firm derbies against Rangers. One of the most effective goalkeepers on view at the 1988 European championship finals. Born Donegal and joined Celtic from Keadie Rovers 11 years ago.

John ALDRIDGE. Centre forward. Aged 31. Real Sociedad (Sp). Prolific-scoring striker for Oxford and Liverpool in the First Division but has inexplicably found enormous problems repeating his success at international level. Whether scoring or not, is well worth his place for the selfless work he puts in for the team.

Ray HOUGHTON. Midfield. Aged 28. Liverpool. Made his international debut in Jack Charlton's first game in charge against Wales in March 1986. Established as one of the game's most dynamic creators since moving to Anfield from Oxford. Scored his first goal for the Republic against England in stuttgart in June 1988.

ITALIA'90
WORLD CUP COUNTDOWN

ENGLAND GROUP F

JOHN BARNES

ANFIELD ENIGMA'S VARIATION

BY BRIAN GLANVILLE

SOME four years after his amazing quarter hour against Argentina in the Azteca Stadium, when he nearly saved England the World Cup match, some six years after his amazing goal against Brazil at the Maracana Stadium, John Barnes remains an enigma. When he is good, he is very, very good, and when he is bad, he is ... horrid?

Despite the slightly mischievous outburst by his former manager, Graham Taylor, in mid-March, when he said that Barnes should leave Liverpool, seek pastures new and better competition abroad, there remain two schools of thought about him. Yet even those two schools have to agree about his colossal natural ability, his pace, his power, his balance, his control; his potential.

But there's the word: potential. He still hasn't fulfilled it. His critics believe that while he is an undoubted force of nature, he hasn't got much football brain. Out on the wing, he allows himself to drift out of the game. He doesn't know where to go. He doesn't really know what to do. His supporters would reject this, not least because they think he should never be out on that left wing, in the first place.

It was interesting, a few weeks ago, to sit near Jan Molby, Liverpool's large Danish international, seldom used these days, when Liverpool were playing QPR in a Cup tie, at Shepherds Bush. Molby was supplying the expert comment for a Liverpool radio station, and supplying it, not so much in perfect English as in fluent and surprising Scouse. Since I can understand it, I was aware that he said how much he admired Barnes, how difficult he was to play against in training games, since he was not merely very strong, but beautifully balanced, it was next to impossible to knock him over.

Anyone who saw, as I did, Barnes score That Goal in Rio, six long years ago, was entitled to believe he would go on to make the world his oyster. It was a classically Brazilian goal, against Brazil. Receiving the ball out on the left, he went past one man after another as he cut inside in an amazing solo, a compound of power, pace and exquisite control. Finally came the angled shot, which gave him and England an exquisite goal. He also supplied the cross from which Mark Hateley rose to head England's other goal, in the only victory England have ever achieved against Brazil in Rio: since they first started trying in 1959.

Yet in the years between that triumph and the 1986 World Cup, Barnes did not make an England place his own. It was merely as a substitute that he came on to the field against Argentina in Mexico City, with England 2-0 down, one of those goals, the traumatising first, being scored with Diego Maradona's fist.

The England attack was getting nowhere, making not the ghost of a chance, but Barnes' arrival galvanised his team. Suddenly he was making progress down the left wing, where no threat had come before, exposing the weaknesses of the bold Argentine strategy, which virtually dispensed with "real" full-backs. A glorious run to the by-line, a perfect cross, and Gary Lineker had made the score 2-1.

Damage

Barnes did it again, and this time, Lineker rather than the ball somehow ended in the net; but it had been a very close call indeed. England had so nearly forced extra time; and had they done so, who knows what further damage Barnes might have inflicted on a now wobbling defence.

Barnes should have built on that; but he hasn't. Not his fault, say his defenders. They insist that when playing for England, he has been under orders never to drift more than five yards away from his own left full-back, thus hopelessly limiting his options and his prowess in attack.

That day at Shepherds Bush, Barnes was switched, in the second half, to central striker, and it was here that he began to run riot, prompting Molby to say, into the microphone, that this was his best position.

I have no more doubts about it than Molby. Barnes himself prefers a free rein, the chance to take himself, his strength, his speed, his ball skills, anywhere and everywhere across the face of the attack. Earlier this season, I saw him deploy them superbly in a central striking role against Millwall, at The Den. In full flight, it is very hard to stop him; as Manchester United found, when he cut through their defence to score, after a long and thrilling run, in the Sunday League game, last March.

Barnes wants to go to Italy. He has never made any bones about it. He wanted to go there before, somewhat reluctantly, he joined Liverpool. Two Italian clubs at least were interested in him, then, Fiorentina and Verona, but for one reason or another, nothing happened. He went to Liverpool; but Liverpool were second best. Now his contract with them runs until June, 1991.

Ignore the mendacious tales that he has reached agreement with Sampdoria and/or Torini and/or Real Madrid. Equally false were the stories that he had fallen out with Kenny Dalglish, Liverpool's manager. Barnes is never any trouble. Indeed, he is a charmer. Agents appear to have been spreading such stories, those who would like to get him away from his own, perfectly competent, Italian-speaking agent, the Scotsman Athol Still, a former opera singer and international swimmer. If he does go to Italy, it might well be to Fiorentina, though it has to be said that at the time of writing, there hasn't been a hint in the Italian Press of interest by any club at all.

This may be because there seems to be a strange misconception in Italian football that Barnes is in some sense "frail", that he would not stand up to the bumps and buffets of the Italian game. Whereas, as we know, he has a Herculean physique. Those who have called him, in Italy, "fat" are equally wide of the mark. The first time they ever met him in a tackle, they would be obliged to concede that it is all muscle.

Barnes' path to professionalism has been a strange one. In the first place, he does not come from the usual, proletarian background of West Indian players. His father was Military Attache to the Embassy of Jamaica in London. The family is essentially middle class, with a very strong orientation towards sports. At school in London, Barnes played rugby, but practiced soccer in a Sudbury (Middlesex) parks team. There he was spotted by a Watford fan, who hardly got a thank you from the club.

Much may be explained by all this. The fact that Barnes, the Football Writers' newly elected Footballer of the Year, is an untarnished talent, doing his own thing, free of excessive coaching. And perhaps a certain lack of tactical discipline. But what talent!

Barnes scores England's second goal against Poland in their vital World Cup qualifier at Wembley in June 1989.

The goal that stunned Brazil. Barnes (11) turns away after his brilliant individual effort in Rio.

Peter SHILTON. Goalkeeper. Aged 40. Derby. Set an England record when he played his 109th international against Denmark last year, beating Bobby Moore's record. For 20 years among the best and most dedicated keepers in the world. At 16 he was so good Leicester could afford to sell World Cup-winner Gordon Banks.

Bryan ROBSON. Midfield. Aged 33 with more than 70 caps. Manchester United. Captain of club and country and England's most consistently effective player. Second only to Gary Lineker in England's list of current goalscorers. Cost a domestic record £1.5 million when he joined United from West Bromwich in 1981.

Terry BUTCHER. Centre back. Aged 31. Rangers. Sadly missed because of injury at the 1988 European finals. One of the favourite players of England manager Bobby Robson, who gave Butcher his first chance at Ipswich. Butcher has proved an immense success at Ibrox since transferring in the summer of 1986.

Chris WADDLE. Forward. Aged 29. Marseille (Fr). Sausage factory worker who became the most expensive British player of all when Tottenham sold him to Marseille for £4.5 million a year ago. Joined Spurs from Newcastle in 1985 after benefiting greatly from the advice of former England captain Kevin Keegan at St. James' Park, and team-mate Peter Beardsley.

Gary LINEKER. Striker. Aged 29. Tottenham. The prospect of the World Cup in Italy was a key factor in Lineker's decision to return to English football when he parted company with Barcelona a year ago. Made history as the only British player to top-score in a World Cup with his six goals in Mexico in 1986.

Stuart PEARCE. Full back. Aged 27. Nottingham Forest. Made his full England debut against Brazil in 1987 and has since formed a formidable defensive partnership with Forest team-mate Des Walker. Packs an explosive shot with his left-foot and is dangerous at free-kicks. His vigorous tackling often gets him into trouble with referees.

Trevor Brooking selects his key player

DES WALKER

ENGLAND have qualified for the World Cup in Italy with a defensive record second to none.

Although the whole team have contributed to this, the one person who has emerged as irreplaceable is Des Walker of Nottingham Forest.

He arrived on the international scene soon after the disappointment of England's performance during the European Championships in 1988.

With Terry Butcher returning at the same time from his broken leg, we have seen a secure and crucial partnership develop over the last two years.

Their different styles complement each other perfectly, but the speed and acceleration of Walker is a vital ingredient. In fact, I couldn't think of any player with the same strengths who could replace him adequately at present.

One for the future, though, might be Earl Barrett of Oldham, who has shown some fine qualities during his second division team's fine season.

I am sure Brian Clough was delighted when Walker signed a new contract recently securing his long-term future at the club.

I mentioned his pace, but there is far more to his game than this important asset that enables him to retrieve or recover with last ditch tackles.

The timing of his tackles are excellent. You rarely see Des dive into reckless challenges which then leave him stranded.

Although not the biggest of defenders he has a wiry determination which ensures he is not easily brushed aside by a physical opponent.

His heading is more than adequate too, although it is Terry Butcher who is the dominant character where crosses are concerned.

One last area where Des Walker is gradually improving is the use of the ball when he gains possession.

At international level it is important for defensive players to be able to run with the ball and help set up attacking moves such as Baresi for Italy and Koeman for Holland.

Undoubtedly, if England are successful in the Summer then Des Walker will stand out as prominent as anyone.

ITALIA'90 WORLD CUP COUNTDOWN

SPAIN GROUP E

Butragueno struggles to regain Mexico form

BY KEIR RADNEDGE

EMILIO BUTRAGUENO flew home to Spain from Mexico four years ago as an international hero.

His four-goal feat in the second round against Denmark had given Spanish football good reason for pride as consolation for their shoot-out failure against Belgium in the quarter-finals.

Butragueno is feted wherever he goes. Fans and the media savour the image which goes with his nickname, The Vulture – a play on words, since that is the translation of the Spanish 'El Buitre'.

But is Butragueno really as good as his reputation? Has he really fulfilled all the potential apparent when he was first drafted into Real Madrid's first team by Alfredo Di Stefano?

Nowadays Di Stefano himself would probably privately think Butragueno has not. But Di Stefano is hardly in a position to say. He holds a public relations appointment with Madrid. On the one occasion on which he did hint that he thought Butragueno had more to offer, the Spanish press seized on his comments with alacrity and caused an overnight sensation.

The problem for Butragueno is that everything has been so comparatively easy for him. He plays for Real Madrid in the best-balanced squad in Spain, champions five years in a row. In attack he plays alongside Hugo Sanchez, who commands so much attention and respect from defenders that Butragueno has more room in which to operate than he could expect were he lining up for anyone else.

Butragueno has done well. But he could do better. And he will have to do better if Spain are to make their mark in Italy and not merely be happy to reach, say, the quarter-finals again.

Midfield colleague Michel believes Spain can win the World Cup. He thinks they have the talent. That means Butragueno.

Strange to think that Butragueno was once told by coaches with Real and Atletico Madrid to concentrate on his other teenage sport, basketball. For one thing, he does not have the height.

Fortunately Butragueno persevered with football, Real kept him on and he exploded into league football with their second division nursery team, Castilla.

Spanish football owes a debt of thanks to Castilla. Players such as Butragueno, Michel, Sanchiz and Martin Vazquez all progressed through their ranks. It was a remarkable generation.

Butragueno was top scorer in the second division when the call from Real came at the start of February 1984. Madrid were away to Cadiz and coach Di Stefano needed a striker among his substitutes. He sent down for Butragueno – who sat in frustration on the sidelines as Cadiz seized a 2-0 half-time lead.

Ultimate

Di Stefano decided to gamble. He had nothing more to lose. He decided to give Butragueno the ultimate test of talent and temperament. But Butragueno specialises in lost causes. On the hour he pulled one goal back. With two minutes remaining Madrid equalised and, within 60 seconds of overtime, Butragueno supplied the winner.

The Vulture had landed!

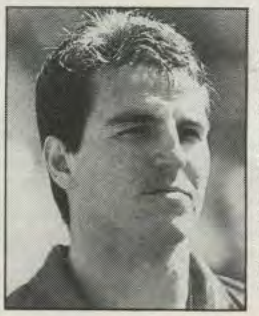
The next week, against Zaragoza. Madrid won 1-0 to a goal from the penalty spot by veteran Juanito after a foul on ... Butragueno. Butragueno nipped back to Castilla briefly to score in a cup-tie against Las Palmas. Then he was named in Spain's squad to contest the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games qualification tournament.

Ultimately Spain failed in the bid to reach Los Angeles, but not for the want of trying on Butragueno's behalf.

At the season's end he was just about to put up his feet for a deserved

Andoni ZUBIZARRETA Urreta. Goalkeeper. Aged 28. Barcelona. In 1986 Zubizarreta cost a goalkeeping world record fee of £1.2 million when Barcelona signed him from Bilbao. He signed an eight-year contract which is earning him a guaranteed minimum of £225,000-a-year. One of Europe's most reliable keepers.

Manuel JIMENEZ Jimenez. Left back. Aged 26. Sevilla. Local boy from Andalucia who was discovered as a teenager by Sevilla and developed in their affiliated nursery team, Sevilla Atletico. Jimenez could be Spain's left-back for years to come after the retirement of the Real Madrid veteran Jose Camacho.



ROBERTO Fernandez Bonillo. Midfield. Aged 27. Barcelona. Cost £800,000 from relegated Valencia in 1986 and was, a few months later, a key member of Spain's victorious European under-21 title-winning team. Scorer of some vital goals for club and country. Once subject of a tentative transfer bid from Tottenham.

rest after a thrilling term when he was ordered at short notice to join the senior European championship squad preparing for the finals in France.

Butragueno duly rushed off to France. He didn't get a game but he was not surprised and not unduly disappointed. He just enjoyed soaking up the atmosphere and, when Spain did pick him for the first time, for the World Cup qualifier against Wales in October, 1984, he responded with a brilliant goal in the last minute. He played again, as a second-half substitute, in a 3-1 defeat by Scotland at Hampden a month later. But by now it was clear that the excitement of the year was taking a toll on his stamina.

Madrid's coach was now Amancio, their former international right winger who had been responsible for encouraging Butragueno at Castilla.

Amancio recognised the problem and left Butragueno out making it clear that he was rested, not dropped. After the previous season's explosive start, his scoring rate had dropped dramatically. Thus he had scored only two goals in 15 league games when Anderlecht, familiar old rivals of Madrid, visited the Spanish capital in the third round of the 1984-85 UEFA Cup. This time the Belgians appeared to hold all the cards. They held a 3-0 lead from the first leg. But Amancio, while admitting publicly that this seemed a lost cause, added: "If the crowd get behind us, you never know what can happen ..."

Early lead

And he recalled that specialist in lost causes, Butragueno. Three minutes only had elapsed when Sanchez headed Madrid into the lead on the night; 16 minutes and Argentine Jorge Valdano escaped his marker to cross for Butragueno to head a second and Valdano himself levelled the aggregate score; 33 minutes and Per Frimann, at the other end, put Anderlecht's nose back in front with the added advantage of an away goal.

But not for long. Valdano scored again for Madrid just before half-time. Two minutes after the interval fullback Jose Camacho advanced up the left and, in the confusion, Butragueno tucked away goal No 5. Now Anderlecht were all at sea as Danish sweeper Morten Olsen was panicked into a rare mistake and Butragueno completed his hat-trick to seal a great victory.

In the next round Butragueno provoked the Steve Perryman own goal which produced Tottenham Hotspur's first home defeat in Europe. And Madrid went on to win the UEFA Cup in both 1985 and 1986.

That was the year which sealed Butragueno as an established talent, not merely a promising newcomer. In the World Cup finals in Mexico he scored no fewer than four times against Denmark.

Spain lost on penalties in the quarter-finals to Belgium. But no-one was left in any doubt: Butragueno had arrived.

Suarez: Changes had to be made

OF ALL the World Cup managers flying to Italy, none will feel as comfortably at home as Spain's Luis Suarez.

For ten years he was the midfield key to the Internazionale side which dominated European and Italian club football in the 1960s. Unlike most imports, he did not run home as soon as his contract ran out.

Instead he stayed on for a coaching career and to gain experience which will surely stand him and his team in good stead in the pressure-cooker World Cup atmosphere.

Suarez, former European Footballer of the Year, took over as manager of Spain in succession to veteran Miguel Munoz after Spain's disappointing European championship showing in West Germany two years ago.

After an opening 3-2 victory over Denmark in Hannover, the Spaniards were beaten by both Italy and hosts West Germany and failed to match their runners-up placing in the previous finals, in France, in 1984.

Munoz, one of European football's most enduring figures, had hoped to continue to the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy. But he had become increasingly accident-prone, suffering a series of misunderstandings and disagreements with officials and players which contributed to the West German disappointment.

Once former Bilbao midfielder Angel Villar had taken over earlier this summer as president of the RFEF, the Spanish federation, the writing was on the wall.

Various personalities had been mentioned as a possible successor to Munoz, during the presidential campaign to replace the politically-paralysed Jose Luis Roca. The different candidates each had their own favourite – among them Espanol's Javier Clemente, and the former national team aide, Vicente Miera.

However Villar always championed the cause of 53-year-old Suarez and the key man in Spain's 1964 European Nations' championship triumph was duly confirmed in his new role in August 1988.

Suarez knew changes were inevitable. Veterans such as Jose Camacho and Rafael Gordillo had to be replaced and Suarez accomplished the task with such success that Spain raced through their qualifying group to the World Cup qualifiers.

Suarez says: "I was thrilled to be appointed as manager. It must be the high point for any manager to be entrusted with the responsibility of leading his country at the World Cup.

Potential

"I knew we had a sound playing base and new young players with a great deal of potential. And because I had spent the previous eight years involved with the federation and the various national teams I think I knew the set-up as well as anyone and the best way to work.

"Miguel Munoz and I had a few problems towards the end but I must say I don't think his reign ended the in the sort of disaster some people have suggested. Look at his record. He took Spain to runners-up spot in the 1984 European championship, to the World Cup finals in Mexico – where we only lost on penalties in the quarter finals in Belgium – and then to the European finals in West Germany."

Suarez was on £40,000 as managerial assistant. Now he is on £150,000-a-year and the Spanish federation are so pleased with his work his contract has been extended beyond Italia '90. It all goes to prove that the qualities which make a good national manager are not necessarily the same ones which guarantee success at club level.

'Luisito' was a great success as a player with La Coruna, Barcelona (1954-1961), Internazionale (1961-70) and Sampdoria (1970-73). He played 37 times for Spain, won the World Club and European Champions' Cups twice over with Inter and the Fairs' Cup twice with Barcelona – as well as a string of domestic titles in Spain and Italy.

But his coaching career in Italy brought no new glories, despite stints with Cagliari, Inter, Spal and Como. Only Coruna, his home-town team, ever offered him a job in his native Spain before the federation took him on board in 1980.

Cup consolation for Barcelona

BARCELONA, left in the dim distance by Real Madrid in the league race, took some measure of revenge by beating their oldest rivals 2-0 in a scrappy, bad-tempered cup final in Valencia.

Barcelona thus ensured their return to the Cup-winners' Cup which they won last season thanks to goals from Julio Salinas and Amor. Madrid had to play more than half the match with ten men after the expulsion of centre-back Hierr for a second yellow-card offence.

By then Madrid were sure of their fifth league title in a row, a necessary success for coach John Toshack after the Champions' Cup thrashing suffered last autumn at the hands of Milan. On their way Madrid topped the previous scoring record of 96 goals set by Barcelona in 1958-59. To be fair, teams played only 30 league games in the 1950s; now, the 20-team first division demands 38 matches each.

Madrid had hoped to finish the season by becoming the first Spanish club to reach an aggregate of 1,000 league victories, just as Hugo Sanchez had hoped to surpass Telmo Zarra's 37-goal scoring mark. With the immediate pressure off, however, Madrid began to let points and chances slide.

Rafael MARTIN VAZQUEZ. Midfield. Aged 24. Real Madrid. Made his Spain debut as a substitute in a 0-0 draw against East Germany. One of the finest young midfield players in Spain and subject of repeated interest from Italian clubs, including Torino. A product of Madrid's nursery team, Castilla.

MICHEL (Jose Miguel Gonzalez Maria del Campo). Midfield. Aged 27. Real Madrid. Alongside Butragueno the brightest star of Spain's new generation. Skilful left foot first spotted by Castilla, Real Madrid's nursery club. Centre of controversy over a disallowed goal against Brazil at the 1986 World Cup.

JULIO SALINAS Fernandez. Centre-forward. Aged 27. Barcelona – whom he joined from Atletico Madrid two years ago to oust Gary Lineker as No 1 goal-scorer. Tall, orthodox striker who began with Bilbao and first made his name in Spain's run to the final of the 1984 European under-21 championship.

ITALIA'90 WORLD CUP COUNTDOWN

URUGUAY GROUP E

Enzo has that Schiaffino look

ENZO FRANCESCOLI is in the long line of classical Uruguayan forwards. He is a modern JUAN SCHIAFFINO – star of the 1950 and 1954 World Cups.

And now, with Marseille, his talent is being fully acknowledged.

Transferred from Argentina's River Plate to Racing Paris in 1986, Francescoli earned big money but took little pleasure from playing in half-empty stadiums for a side which never rivalled the best.

His transfer last year to ambitious Marseille gave him a chance to play before large and fanatical crowds for a club determined to succeed.

Francescoli says: "The public here is just fantastic and playing for the championship and in the European Cup is so different after my time in Paris. I love the atmosphere.

"The climate is wonderful here too. It reminds me of my own country. Last year, I was very keen to go to an Italian team but no deal ever worked out.

"Now I'm not thinking about that anymore. I'm very happy here. I have exactly what I want."

If Francescoli is happy with Marseille, the French club are equally delighted with the South American who has proved the perfect foil up front for the free-scoring Jean-Pierre Papin.

"This Marseille side is very good," Francescoli said. "We can do well. There are a lot of stars here but we're all part of a group and each of us forget our own reputations and really work for the team. The communication could hardly be better."

Motivation

As for Uruguay, he says: "We have a lot of motivation and a lot of confidence. We have kept more or less the same team which finished second in the South American championship and we enjoy playing together."

But he acknowledged that Group E in the finals with Belgium, Spain and South Korea would be far from easy to negotiate.

"It's a very balanced group and it will be very difficult," he went on. "But at least there are no really tough teams in it."

Francescoli rates Argentina, Brazil, West Germany and Italy as the favourites with European champions Holland rivalling them only if Ruud Gullit recovers from injury in time.

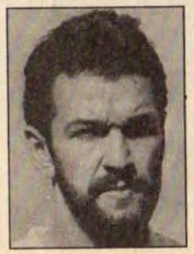
Francescoli is looking forward to teaming up again with the brilliant young Sosa in Uruguay's sky-blue shirts. Their partnership up front proved highly effective in the South American championship.

Above all, he hopes Uruguay will erase the unpleasant memories of the 1986 finals in Mexico where the team flopped badly and earned a distasteful reputation for brutal play.

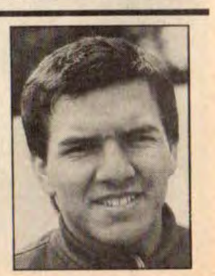
"It will be very different in Italy," he said. "We will be playing creative football."

That's good news for Francescoli.

Nelson GUTIERREZ. Centre back. Aged 28. Verona (Italy). Was a World Youth Cup quarter-finalist in 1981 and a World Club Cup winner with Penarol against Aston Villa in Tokyo a year later. Gutierrez was considered among the best backs in Argentina during a spell with River Plate before transferring to Italy.



Hugo DE LEON. Centre back. Aged 32. River Plate (Arg). A key member of Nacional's 1980 World and South American Cup-winning side. Then moved to Brazil with Gremio, again winning the top two club prizes. Rejoined Nacional in 1988 before River Plate bought him to fill the gap left by the sale of Gutierrez.



Ruben SOSA. Centre forward. Aged 24. Lazio (Italy). Considered by many as the outstanding individual at last year's South American championship. He was his country's leading scorer in that tournament and in last year's World Cup qualifying games.

EGYPT GROUP F

DANGER MAN HASSAN

HOSSAM HASSAN earned himself a special place in African football history on November 17 last year when he headed a crossed ball into the back of the Algerian net.

It was the only goal in the two matches Egypt and Algeria played to decide which country would go ahead to Italy. It gave Egypt their first berth in the finals for 56 years and made him a hero in a land where soccer is second only to politics in terms of publicity and press coverage.

Hassan has been scoring consistently in Egypt's seemingly never-ending run of World Cup build-up matches, hitting the only goal when Egypt beat French League club Nice on March 8, and scoring again when Egypt won another friendly in Italy a few days later.

His talents have already been noted by several overseas clubs and he is expected to join PAOK of the Greek first division in time for next season.

Together with his brother Ibrahim, who plays in the defence, Hassan has already earned himself a niche in the footnotes of Italia 90. They are expected to be the only twins to play together in the same side in the finals.

Hassan, 23, has already played more than 25 times for his country and is now widely regarded as one of the best strikers in Africa. He plays an intelligent game, timing his runs perfectly either from the midfield or wide on one flank and has one superb gift which all natural goalscorers possess. He is very difficult to mark in the box, and is often perfectly placed to create chances.

He lacks a powerful shot, but makes up for that with supreme fitness and a deft touch on the ball, and he also has a superb understanding with his brother Ibrahim.

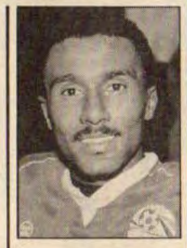
They will often link up down one flank and seem able to create something out of nothing together with an uncanny, but understandable, kind of telepathy.

England manager Bobby Robson, whose side face Egypt in Cagliari on June 21 was impressed when he saw Hassan play against Denmark in February. Although the match in Cairo ended in a 0-0 draw, Robson described him as "a talented player who could be a bit of a handful to any defence."

Brothers Ibrahim and Hossam Hassan celebrate World Cup qualification.

Ahmed SHOUBEIR. Goalkeeper. Aged 28. Al Ahly. Regular first-choice for the national team since the retirement of Sabet El Batal, the 1986 African Nations' Cup-winning hero. Rivals Cameroon's Bell as Africa's top keeper.

Hany RAMZY. Centre back. Aged 24. Al Ahly. Was an outstanding youth international who first gained fame beyond Egypt with his displays in a major tournament staged in Qatar in the mid-1980s.



Ahmed EL KAS. Midfield. Aged 23. Olympic (Alexandria). Considered the midfield heir-apparent to the likes of Abdel Ghani and Abu Zeid. Manager El Gohari expects him to be one of the World Cup revelations.

The Brian Glanville COLUMN

SAY IT AIN'T S

Splitting the game into four would be the ultimate sell-out

WHEN Dwight Eisenhower was President of the United States and John Foster Dulles his contentious Secretary of State for foreign affairs, there was an apocryphal story that Ike one day addressed him: "Don't just say something! Stand there!"

Much the same might be said to the deplorable Joao Havelange, whose latest proposal is not so much daft as dangerous. One more potential, and quite horrific, sell-out to television.

Behind the disgraceful suggestion that the time-honoured pattern of a ninety minute game with just one, half time, interval be abandoned, lies the wish to placate, and exploit, American television in the 1994 World Cup.

Soccer's traditional pattern doesn't suit American TV. Money from American TV is important, if not essential. Hence it is soccer which should change. There could scarcely be a more wretched and flagrant example of the repugnant commercialism which has swept through FIFA in recent years, with the secretary, Joseph Blatter, perpetually singing the praises of the unholy alliance between football, television and publicity.

Matches, Havelange suggests, should be divided into four quarters of 25 minutes each. An extra burden on the players, you will note, as well as a monstrous distortion of the game.

Shades of the famous Granada TV programme – for once, television was his enemy – when he twice walked out of the studio, when quizzed about his business interests, at the time of the last World Cup.

Boot-licking sycophants, not least the egregious Swiss who suggested Havelange be put up for the Nobel Peace Prize – a joke in the worst possible taste – have seen to it that Havelange has cruised through his presidency with no opposition. Placemen, sycophants, forelock tuggers have abounded.

When a really intelligent and progressive rule change was initiated some years ago by our own Football League, the Old Water Polo Player vetoed it. Yes, I am talking about the Professional Foul, the automatic sending off of its perpetrators, which could truly revolutionise the game. But what does the old wheeler dealer care about the game?

Criticism

FIFA doesn't brook criticism lightly. One of the best journalists in England, indeed in Europe, ran the risk of not receiving his credentials for the World Cup, because he had dared time and again to criticise them.

Never in the Sundays

THIS Sunday stuff. I declare an interest immediately. I am the Football Correspondent of the Sunday Times, as I have had the good fortune to be since 1958. But I still think our football authorities, bedazzled and seduced by the Mephistophelian bosses of television, are making grave mistakes.

This season's FA Cup semi-finals were both set for a Sunday. Both of them. Why? The reason given us was that thus would be avoided a repeat of the Hillsborough disaster. If you believe that, as the Duke of Wellington reproached a man who greeted him: "Mr Smith, I believe," then you will believe anything.

Money from television is what surely prompted the FA to make these both Sunday games. Which meant that the Sunday papers couldn't cover either of them.

Are we really to believe that playing on a Sunday is any kind of safeguard? That Liverpool fans suddenly turn into docile angels on the sabbath. That potential problems of over crowding and the rest cease suddenly to exist, when Sunday comes? Leave it, out, Lancaster Gate! You wanted the television money and you could pay a price for it, eventually.

A Sunday TV thriller ... Alan Pardew (no. 11) scores a sensational winner for Crystal Palace in their FA Cup Semi-Final against Liverpool at Villa Park.

This, as we all know, ad nauseam, is the television age. But newspapers have their part to play as well; and Sunday newspapers are read, read and read to distraction. People have time on the Sabbath. And Sunday newspapers can pick and choose. If the major soccer matches do not take place on a Saturday, then they will not have ... pride of place.

Other sports, such as cricket and rugby, will be promoted above them. The front page of the sports section of the Sunday Times, for example, will be devoted to a cricket or a rugby match.

Time and again, I have pointed out that television is nobody's friend; that selling sports events to it is like going for a ride on a tiger. TV has distorted the current English Championship, pulling match after match out of the Saturday schedule, condemning Arsenal to nearly a couple of months without a home game.

Amazingly enough, George Graham, their manager, seemed reconciled to such a situation. After Arsenal had drawn at Charlton some weeks ago, he told us that this was what the game was all about; it had to be accepted.

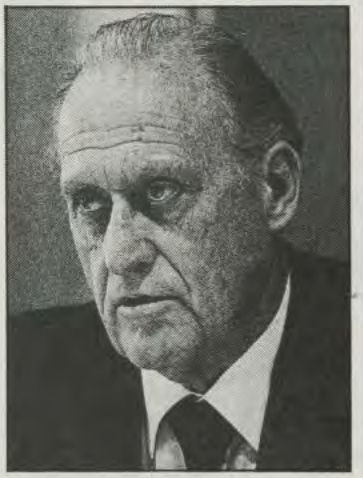
But why should it? Graham at that period had an uneasy ride with the Press. I like the man, but suggest to him that he get his act together, that he doesn't come in after an appalling London derby against Spurs, saying what a fine game it was, that he doesn't jump down the throat of a reporter speaking uncontroversially about how well Kevin Campbell played against Nottingham Forest, when

SO, JOAO!

Gone are the good old days of Sir Stanley Rous. Snob and upstart he may have been, but he loved the game, he truly cared about it, he had refereed at the highest level, he held the ring superbly. It hasn't been held since.

The word is that Havelange's power is waning, that Blatter is now the top figure in Zurich. At least he has made encouraging noises about the Professional Foul rule. There is more joy in Heaven, and all that.

Blatter, like the soldier in the epilogue of Bernard Shaw's St.Joan could get his one day out of hell a year, if he promulgated such a rule. This would be a far more positive contribution to the game than persecuting journalists who dare to step out of line.



Is Havelange's power waning?

Kevin Campbell has been a revelation for Arsenal.

he scored so fine a goal.

Qui s'excuse s'accuse, as the French say. Who excuses himself accuses himself.

Graham snapped at the reporter that he had his job to do. Graham himself had his. He wasn't going to be swayed by "media hype." But the journalist was indeed doing his job. Quite mildly, too. A journalist's job, inter alia, is to pass judgement on what managers do.

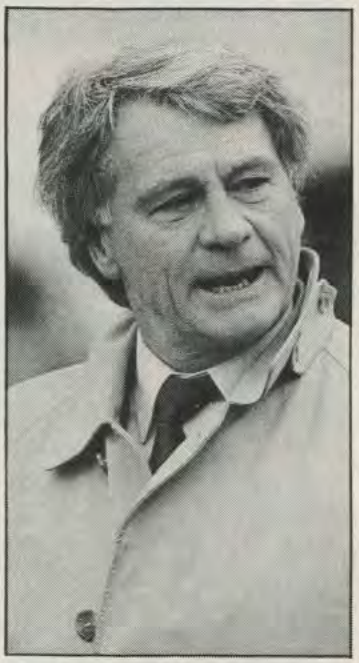
Graham went on to say that his decisions in the past three years hadn't been too bad. Well, that's for someone else to say, George. My own view is that in the transfer market, Kenny Dalglish of Liverpool has run rings round you. That while you were saying there just weren't the players available, Dalglish was going out and buying them.

As for the Campbell Affair, I am among those who feel that you were altogether too cautious. All very well to talk about the necessity not to throw a player in at the deep end, when the deep end was so obviously where Campbell felt most at home. At a time, mark you, when last season's leading First Division scorer, Alan Smith, had pitifully gone off the boil, scoring hardly at all.

After Campbell had scored that fine goal against Nottingham Forest, ridiculing the England centre-back Des Walker, it is true that he missed a clutch of goals against Manchester City at Maine Road. But he went on to score at Derby, and surely proved that you were wrong to keep on lending him out to the likes of Leicester, then to keep him in the stiffs.

It wasn't the media who pressed for the inclusion of Campbell; it was the North Bank, who have long since taken him to their heart, who roared their delight when he came on against Forest, just as they roared their displeasure at that ridiculous substitution in the arid Chelsea game, when you inexplicably pushed the long, lean centre-back, Bould, up the front, in his place.

So unfair to Robson



YOU are old, Councillor William, the young man roared, and are obviously quite out of touch ... I shall forbear to quote any more of my poetic parody, but it does seem somewhat relevant in the case of Bert Millichip, Bobby Robson, and the England managership.

In the past, Millichip has been an embattled, if misguided, defender of Bobby Robson, as he has lurched from one failure to another as England's manager. But now, suddenly, the music has changed. Millichip has muttered that if England don't win the World Cup, Robson could well be on his way. He must have his hands free to consider other candidates.

Wisdom

There were, it appeared, three of them; Howard Kendall, Graham Taylor despite his long ball past, and Terry Venables, despite his spotty season with Spurs; who cannot even a schmatter business.

The new wisdom, or unwisdom, appears to be that international football managers must have time to get their feet under the table. Robson himself has told us it took him a couple of years to adjust. There are those of us who feel he has still to adjust, after the best, or worst, part of eight years. In any case, it's a moronic fallacy and it's sad to see it has been embraced even by certain journalists.

An international team manager doesn't need to wait five minutes in the wings, spend any time at all studying the situation. Just look about you. How long did Franz Beckenbauer of West Germany and Michel Platini of France spend, in an apprenticeship?

Yes, Berti Vogts is due to take over from Franz when he gives up next July, after several years as his deputy; yes, Helmut Schoen eventually and positively took over from the explosive little Sepp Herberger, after a 24-year reign. So what? Both Beckenbauer and Platini had no managerial experience or qualifications at all, when they were appointed.

Sebastiao Lazaroni of Brazil had at least been a successful club manager with Vasco da Gama, later leaving for Arabia; but he didn't do his Jacob and Laban act, waiting to inherit the Brazilian managership.

It suits the present international incumbents, and their deputies, to promote the fiction that this is a very special job, requiring long training. The truth is that some can do it, some can't, and if experience is so essential, why has Bobby Robson made so many appalling mistakes in World Cups and European Championships?

Bizarre

Why have so many of his team selections seemed simply bizarre? Why does he apparently find it so hard to get the names of foreign players right?

Don Howe has been doing an excellent job at Queens Park Rangers, but the fact that he has been No 2 to Robson so long seems to me as much a disqualification as a recommendation. Though he tried last year to dissociate himself from Robson's palsied tactics and policies, it came too late to convince.

England blunder on to the World Cup; but it was immensely unfair of Millichip even to hint that if they won't win it, Robson is on his way. They haven't a chance, and everyone knows it. Even Millichip, surely.

Besides, if the axe hangs over Robson, what on earth was the point of giving him that ridiculous contract which lasts not until the end of the World Cup, but until 1991?

But I have long since ceased to try to make sense of the bizarre decisions which emerge from Lancaster Gate. Not least the initial slap on the wrist for the chairman of Swindon when, in almost any other major European football country, punishment would have been dire.

Roman vandals?

IN the Piazza del Popolo, the day before Lazio played Roma in the local derby, last March, eight Lazio players were viciously attacked by Roma fans.

Thugs might be the better word.

At the game itself, it was Lazio's fans who went berserk, knocking down the safety netting at the Flaminio stadium and bombarding the Roma players with missiles.

Goodness knows what awaits us in the World Cup.

At least the English police seem to be doing their best, and were able to instruct the Italian police who visited them last month in crowd control. Above all, one hopes, in the necessity to go in quickly to quell disturbances as our police do, not to hang about. Then over-react.

HOLLAND

KOEMAN

The key-man

BY IAIN MACLEOD

Ronald Koeman was once described as having looks typical of a Dutch farm lad; that, though, in no way reflects the enormous stature he now enjoys at international level.

Koeman, who now plays his football in the Catalan capital has not had quite the same success there as in Eindhoven.

He remains, however, one of the central figures in Holland's assault on the 1990 World Cup. A versatile player, Koeman, particularly in the event that Ruud Gullit is unable to regain full fitness in time for the finals will captain the team.

One of two brothers who succeeded in reaching the pinnacle of international football, Koeman is two years younger than Erwin who, like Ronald began his career with FC Groningen but has really come to the fore since he joined Belgian champions, Mechelen.

Football has always run deep through the Koeman family. Their father Martin also played professional football for the small Dutch provincial outfit and his presence during the boys' upbringing ensured that they had the benefit of additional and valuable footballing education.

Koeman was still a 17-year-old schoolboy when he made his senior debut for Groningen, in those days as a central midfield player.

Among the attributes which were apparent from the outset was a phenomonally hard shot, tough tackling and footballing vision which was perhaps on occasion too much for less able colleagues; Koeman's intelligence and ability to be ahead of the game was a vital factor which went a considerable distance in alleviating Koeman's single weakness – a lack of pace.

Erwin, on the other hand is very quick but does not have brother's overall ability, though he has developed into a midfielder of some poise, sufficiently so to claim a regular place in the Dutch team.

The two brothers enjoy a close relationship, but, despite having only a two year age-gap between them managed only one season in the same club team.

That was in 1982 when, Erwin, having had a spell with PSV rejoined his home-town club, and immediately formed a potent partnership with Ronald.

Such exploits, though, began to command national attention and, in April, 1983, Dutch coach Kees Rijvers gave Koeman an international baptism he would never forget.

In the friendly international against Sweden which marked the final appearance of the great Ruud Krol, Holland's greatest ever defender, Koeman was given the sweeper's role to disastrous effect – the Dutch were trounced 3-0, their worst home defeat since they became a major power in the early 1970's.

Rijvers, though, was no mean judge of talent and the criticism he endured for switching Koeman from his traditional midfield role was to prove a fleeting sensation; time has borne out Rijvers' faith in the player – and his contention that he would be Holland's sweeper for the next decade.

Koeman was to discover that the time and space he had playing from the back suited his natural temperament, though his transfer to Ajax for £300,000 in the summer of 1983 was, as for so many other gifted youngsters – notably Rijkaard – a period fraught with problems.

Coach Aad de Mos, whose habit of playing musical chairs with positional changes infuriated his young charges ensured that Koeman's first two years at Middenweg were not the happiest.

The turning point came when Johan Cruyff was appointed coach in 1985. Cruyff was the Messiah Ajax had waited for, and led to a revival in the club's fortunes which culminated in the European Cup-winners' Cup win in 1987.

Sadly for Koeman – and Ajax – his time under Cruyff's magical spell was restricted to one year; PSV, the club of Philips, were determined to break the Ajax monopoly – and had the financial muscle to do it.

So, in the summer of 1986 Koeman, lured by the financial incentives offered by PSV moved to Eindhoven, where he enjoyed three enormously successful seasons in which his new club became a major European power, winning the coveted Champions' Cup in 1988.

Almost inevitably, Koeman's performances attracted the attention of Italian and Spanish clubs. PSV tried desperately hard to hold on to him but even Philips money failed to match the lure of Barcelona's pesetas – three years after his arrival in Eindhoven, Koeman was busy preparing to move house again.

Koeman cost Barcelona £3.5 million, though there have been times when his role in Cruyff's eyes on the right side of midfield made him wonder why he was taken to Nou Camp.

Cruyff's system – a rather unwieldly 3-1-2-1-3, in which Koeman wore the No. 4 shirt – did nothing for Barcelona's state of mind and they soon lost touch with Real in the championship race.

Koeman, who is married with a three-year old daughter has matured considerably in the past couple of seasons and has come to terms with the different lifestyles in Spain and Holland.

LEO GOES INTO THE LIONS' DEN

LEO BEENHAKKER will be Holland's World Cup manager – but even his appointment upset the player-power leaders who had achieved their priority in ousting Thys Libregts.

By a vote of nine to five the players had decided on Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff as their preferred choice. Significantly, senior players such as Marco Van Basten, Frank Rijkaard, Jan Wouters and Ronald Koeman were among Cruyff's backers. However, it is thought the federation considered Cruyff both too expensive and too controversial for the task.

Good news for Holland was Ruud Gullit's re-appearance for Milan in their last two league games of the season, virtually ensuring his participation in the World Cup.

VAN BASTEN

The striker who counts

BY IAIN MACLEOD

I USED to watch Marco Van Basten regularly during his Ajax years as he scored goals with the precision of a master craftsman, helping the club to three Dutch championships, three Dutch Cups and the European Cup-Winners Cup in 1987.

He had, however, become too valuable an asset and, having long been coveted by Italian clubs signed for AC Milan for £1.5 million only weeks after Ajax had triumphed in Athens.

Van Basten did not have the happiest of starts in Italy, and was forced to sit out most of his first season through injury, as his compatriot Ruud Gullit began to shape a team which in time was to gain acceptance as perhaps the best club side seen in Europe in the 1980s.

Van Basten was born in Utrecht on October 31, 1964 and began his football career with local side UVV Utrecht. He then joined Elinwijk and moved to Ajax in 1981. Van Basten's father Joop, was not without a footballing pedigree having played in the top flight with DOS and Utrecht.

The youngster learned much from his father and on joining Ajax, Van Basten was to come under the influence of the man who did most to forward his career – the legendary Cruyff.

Van Basten's emergence, in tandem with players like Rijkaard and Koeman who also came to Ajax, at least helped restore the club's dominance of the domestic scene.

He dominated Holland's scoring charts for four seasons. But his most remarkable achievement was to be in the 1985-86 season when, hampered by injury and able to play in only 26 of Ajax's 34 league games he still won the Golden Boot for the first time having ended up with a tally of 37

Johannes 'Hans' VAN BREUKELEN. Goalkeeper. Aged 33. PSV Eindhoven. Made his name originally with FC Utrecht and when they fell heavily into debt he was sold to Nottingham Forest. Returned to PSV and was a European championship hero in 1988 with his penalty save from Belanov of the Soviet Union in the Final.

Gerald VANENBURG. Midfield. Aged 26. PSV Eindhoven. Began with Ajax, where he was rated one of the most exciting young players ever seen in Holland. He was nicknamed Geraldinha or the Little Brazilian because of his technical skills. Regained lost confidence in becoming a European champion with PSV in 1988.

Jan WOUTERS. Midfield. Aged 29. Ajax. Signed in 1985 from FC Utrecht. The Ajax staff value him for the 'balance' he provides in midfield. Bow-legged but highly versatile player who can appear at fullback, in midfield or out on the wing. Made his international debut six years ago against France.

goals.

Van Basten, though, was more than just a prolific goalscorer: he also had the ability to create goals and frequently finished off moves that he himself had started.

He had struck up a fine partnership with John Bosman which may be called upon in Italy to try and reproduce the form of those early days.

At the tender age of 20, Van Basten's qualities had been recognised to the extent that Cruyff made him club captain. By the start of the 1986-87 season, it was evident that his remaining time in Holland was limited.

Milan's fee of £1.5 million was it transpired something of a steal even if Van Basten, plagued by injury spent much of his first season in Italy trying to regain full fitness.

Nonetheless, even as a substitute Van Basten still managed to make a handsome contribution in the final run-in, scoring several vital goals as Milan won the Italian title.

But his greatest triumph was yet to come, at the European Championships that summer.

Left on the bench for the opening match against the Soviet Union, the 1-0 defeat led to his recall for the match with England where, on a glorious summer's day in Dusseldorf he scored a typical hat-trick.

In the semi-final against West Germany in Hamburg, his two goals gave Holland perhaps their sweetest moment of the post-war period; even the ultimate triumph, a 2-0 victory over the Soviet Union which gave Holland their first major title did not quite live up to the moment when Germany were beaten in Hamburg.

A year later, Van Basten scored twice as Milan destroyed Steaua Bucharest to win the Champions' Cup for the first time since 1969 to establish beyond doubt that he was the world's finest striker.

RIJKAARD

The man for every crisis

BY NICK BIDWELL

MILAN coach, Arrigo Sacchi thinks that Frank Rijkaard could play in goal if required, while club president, Silvio Berlusconi recently suggested that a possible answer to the team's injury crisis would be to move the Dutch international to centre forward.

Not that Giovanni Galli or Marco Van Basten should lose any sleep, but such opinions bear eloquent testimony to the 27-year-old's athleticism and versatility. Whether it be as sweeper with former club, Ajax, stopped for his country or in the heart of the Milan midfield, Rijkaard brings to the game a heady mixture of power, grace and tactical intelligence.

Rijkaard was born on September 30, 1962 in Amsterdam to a Dutch mother and a father from Surinam (the former Dutch West Indian colony). Rijkaard senior was himself no mean footballer, having played as a defender in Surinam before moving to Holland and signing for the small Amsterdam club of Blau-Wit.

At seven the young Rijkaard joined his first club, Sport Club Amsterdam, before linking-up with his father's old team, Blau-Wit and then DWS Amsterdam. It was while there that he caught the eye of then Ajax manager, Leo Beenhakker, who signed him in July 1978.

The following season he made his first team debut against Go Ahead Eagles of Deventer, entering the fray as a second half substitute for the injured Soren Lerby. Rijkaard immediately celebrated with a goal and went on to quickly establish himself in a title-winner Ajax side.

International recognition was soon forthcoming and despite Ajax protests to the KNVB that the 19-year-old was 'too young', the bespectacled figure of national boss, Kees Rijvers gave the youngster his first cap against Switzerland in the autumn of 1981. Ironically, substituting for Rijkaard at half time in that match was another debutant, his childhood friend, Ruud Gullit.

Although on the domestic front he could claim to have actively participated in four Ajax championship wins (1980,82,83 and 85) and boast of the healthy average of ten goals per season, Dutch critics were decidedly reticent in according him star status, pointing to a lack of consistency on his part.

Only in November 1985 by virtue of an inspiration display which helped Holland to defeat Hungary in a World Cup qualifier in Budapest did the elegant Rijkaard really establish himself as an integral part of the national side.

The watershed of his career came with the return as coach of Ajax's former maestro, Johan Cruyff in the summer of 1985. With the Amsterdam club's greatest player at the helm, attacking football was the order of the day, and he made the revolutionary tactical switch of playing Rijkaard as a sweeper in front of the defence.

Following an autumn defeat at the hands of rivals PSV, Rijkaard clashed with Cruyff and walked out, vowing never to pull on an Ajax shirt again. Milan made inquiries, but talks spluttered to a halt and Sporting Lisbon stepped into the breach. However, the convoluted saga had not reached its end. By the time negotiations were completed in February 1988, the Portuguese deadline for the signing of foreigners had elapsed and so he was finally loaned to Spain's Zaragoza.

His route to a glittering career in Italy was cleared last season by the Federcalcio's decision to permit clubs to field a third foreigner.

Arrigo Sacchi, demanded that Rijkaard become the Milanese club's third Dutch recruit. In a position of force following Milan's championship triumph, the coach's view persuaded Milan supremo Berlusconi to pay out £3.5 million.

During the World Cup finals any potential victor will have to play seven games in the space of a month. In the course of such a demanding schedule it is probable that Holland will have cause to utter a prayer of thanks that they can call on Frank Rijkaard's ability to play almost anywhere.

Ruud GULLIT. Attack. Aged 27. Milan (formerly Haarlem, Feyenoord and PSV). One of the most distinguished and distinctive players in the game – with his dreadlocks and his all-round skills. Former European Footballer of the Year and inspirational in Milan's Champions' Cup triumph over Steaua Bucharest last year.

Erwin KOEMAN. Midfield. Aged 28. KV Mechelen (Bel). Elder brother of Ronald. Began with Groningen and, after a brief spell with PSV, returned there in 1982. Joined Mechelen in 1985 and was a key man in their Cup-winners' Cup final triumph over Ajax on what was their first foray into Europe.

John BOSMAN. Striker. Aged 25. Mechelen. Signed from Ajax where he proved the perfect attacking foil for Van Basten. Yet, during Cruyff's spell in charge at Ajax, he was used sometimes as sweeper! Scored with a great header against England in the 2-2 draw at Wembley in 1988.

SHOP WINDOW

To advertise please ring Karl Marsden 071-261 6724

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE RING KARL MARSDEN 071-261 6724

WANTED

I BUY football tickets: European Cup, International cup finals. Swysen, Rue Saint-Nicolas, 7, B112 Brussels, Belgium.

WANTED URGENTLY – books, magazines, programmes, newspaper cuttings, from these areas of the world – Concacaf, Asia, Africa, Oceania, plus any information on these nations San Marino, Faroe Is, Liechtenstein, top prices paid. Please write to Info, 2 Shawfield Close, Sutton Hill, Telford, Shropshire TF7 5HH.

PROGRAMMES

PROGRAMME PROMOTIONS INTERNATIONAL

Send an I.R. Coupon for a free copy of the monthly football programme catalogue with big International/European selection. Pre war to date.

Allez-y! Euro Kunden Herzlichst Willkommen

14 Wheatlands, Heston, Hounslow, London TW5 0SA. Tel: 01-569 5131

★ 1989/90 PROGRAMMES ★

If you are looking for an up to date football programmes service that cannot be equalled, look no further. Containing all recent big matches, League, non League, Scottish, Irish, plus our 10p special offers section. Send 20p or SAE, wholesale rates for dealers and club shops available on request.

PETER HOLTOM (WS), PO Box 356, Newcastle, Staffs ST5 3QZ. Phone 0782 637284

THE FOOTBALL PROGRAMME DIRECTORY

Organisers of the International Programme Fair Saturday 9 June, (11am-3.45pm) HOTEL RUSSELL, RUSSELL SQUARE, LONDON WC1

Advance tickets now available. 50p each plus s.a.e.

The monthly magazine for programme collectors and others interested in our national game PROGRAMME NEWS – ADVERTS SECTION – MEMBERS' LETTERS – DETAILS OF PROGRAMME FAIRS – COLLECTORS' MEETINGS – MANY OTHER FEATURES

Subscription £6.50 for 12 issues; overseas £7.50 *Sample back issues 75p each*

DAVID STACEY (Editor), The FPD (Dept WS) 66 Southend Road, Wickford, Essex SS11 8EN

SPORTS PROGRAMMES

P.O. Box 74
Dept S, Coventry CV1 4AB. Tel. 0203 228672
BRITAIN'S LARGEST ANTIQUE PROGRAMME DEALER
Collectors send 35p postage for our free 58-page catalogue
POSITIVELY THE HIGHEST PRICES PAID FOR ALL COLLECTIONS.
Proprietors: TONY STANFORD, ROY CALMELS

FREE FOOTBALL PROGRAMMES! Send 50p postage for our current catalogue and receive promotional pack of programmes (worth £2.50) – FREE! Steve Earl (WS), Broad Street, Bungay, Suffolk.

1989/90 PROGRAMMES & books. Please send s.a.e. for catalogue. Football World, PO Box South Bank 4, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS6 6YU.

50,000 OLD PROGRAMMES for sale, send 20p for your free catalogue to Michael Cunningham, 6 Exeter Avenue, Bolton, Lancs BL2 2NX.

VIDEOS

SPORTS VIDEOS LTD

Relive some great sporting moments at home on Video – from only £9.99

New Releases all at £9.99

9 National Team Videos for World Cup 1990. Featuring the history, past and present, and up to the minute action from the following National Teams

SVF141	England	SVF142	West Germany	SVF143	Italy
SVF144	Brazil	SVF145	Uruguay	SVF146	Argentina
SVF147	Russia	SVF148	Holland	SVF150	Spain
SVF149	World Cup contenders. (Including action from Scotland, Belgium & USA)				

Videos at £9.99 each

SVB1	Tyson Vs Douglas Fight	SVF58	Glenn Hoddle Story
SVF80	Liverpool – Mighty Reds	SVF113	Shooting Stars of the 80s
SVF68	Hero World Cup 1960	SVF3	Match of the Day Part 1 and 2
SVF81	Liverpool 9 Crystal Palace 0	SVF76	Liverpool Best of the 70s
SVF55	Gary Lineker Story	SVF25	Everton – Greavsie's six of the best of the 80s
SVF57	George Graham Story	SVF6	Arsenal 70/71
SVF103	Pele The Master	SVF91	Official History Manchester Utd.
SVF122	Spurs Best of the 70s	SVF127	Spurs UEFA Cup 1984
SVF8	Arsenal Best of the 70s	SVF14	Brazil 70 Team of the Century
SVF83	Manchester United Best of the 70s	SVF67	Gunning for Glory Arsenal
SVF5	Arsenal Six of the Best	SVF124	Stanley Matthews World in Action
SVF87	Manchester Utd. 6 of the Best	SVF104	Peter Shilton Story
SVF78	Official History Liverpool for 1892	SVF94	Maradona – Greatest Player in the World
SVF136	World's Greatest Players	SVF70	Ian St John – Six of the Best
SVF27	History of Everton F.C.	SVF51	Chelsea – Zenith Cup Winners
SVF120	Soccer Superstars of 50s and 60s	SVF153	Platini – A Legend
SVF132	Wolves League & Cup 74/80	SVF154	World Cup Football 1974
SVF2	101 Great Goles	SVF107	Glasgow Rangers 88/89 season
SVF18	Chelsea – Second Division Champions 88/89	SVF15	Celtic 88/89 season
		SVF4	Aberdeen 88/89 season
SVF130	West Ham Official History	SVF56	George Best Story

All FA Cup Videos at £9.99 each

SVF28	Blackpool v Bolton FA Cup Final 1953	SVF49	Spurs v Coventry FA Cup Final 1987
SVF46	Liverpool v Everton FA Cup Final 1989		

Most Cup Finals 1961, 64, 66, 70, 70 replay, 71, 73, 74, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 83, 84, 85

Videos at £11.99

SVF62	The Greatest Ever Arsenal Team	SVF63	The Greatest Ever England Team
SVF64	The Greatest Ever Liverpool Team	SVF66	Venables Greatest Ever Spurs Team
SVF140	Scotland The Brave	SVF138	Jimmy Greaves Story
		SVF139	Brian Clough's Greatest Ever England Team

MANY MORE. ORDER NOW! Just fill in coupon below

SPORTS VIDEOS are leaders in all sports videos; Football, Rugby, Snooker, Boxing, and many more. Send or ring for full list. Our address is Sports Videos Ltd, Room 3 Mossfield House, Chesham Fold Road, Bury, Lancs, England BL9 6XJ. Tel. 061 762 9559.

Postage and Packaging costs
UK – up to 2 tapes £1.50 – thereafter 50p per tape
Europe – up to 2 tapes £5 – thereafter £1.50 per tape
Elsewhere – £5 for each tape up to 2 tapes – thereafter £2 per tape
Please make cheques/postal orders (sterling only) payable to SPORTS VIDEOS LTD

Name .....
Address .....
.....
Postcode ..... Telephone No: .....
Videos required W/S2
Total cost £..... Team Supported .....
Please can you send a full list [ ]

TELEPHONE INFORMATION

THE LES MURRAY SCORELINE

ALL THE SCORES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

This all new soccer results service includes all the latest South American and European club results. In fact all the scores you could possibly need to know.

YOU WILL NEED THE FOLLOWING CODE TO CALL LES:

UK	01061
CHILE	0061
ITALY	0061

YOU WILL NEED THE FOLLOWING CODE TO CALL LES:

BRAZIL	0061
SPAIN	0761
FRANCE	1961

Give Les Murray a ring on:

0 5 5 2 2 3 3 3

LES MURRAY IS AUSTRALIA'S TOP SPORT PRESENTER

CHARGES PER MINUTE (PEAK/OFF PEAK) WILL BE MADE AT THE FOLLOWING RATE

UK – 87P/70P

IRELAND – 95p/75p
ITALY – 4916/4119 Lira
BRAZIL – 15-5/15-5 Cruzeiro
SPAIN – 447/313 pts
FRANCE – 0.615/0.615F
CHILE – 576/510 Pesos

Please make sure you have the permission of the person who is paying the bill before calling the Les Murray scoreline

BADGES

BADGES OF DISTINCTION

WORLD CUP 1990

Group A	Group B	Group C
Italy	Argentina	Brazil
Austria	Cameroon	Sweden
USA	USSR	Costa Rica
Czech'vakia	Romania	Scotland
Group D	**Group E**	**Group F**
W. Germany	Belgium	England
Yugoslavia	S. Korea	Rep. Ireland
UAE	Uruguay	Holland
Columbia	Spain	Egypt

- Limited edition
- Single badge £3.00 each
- Group sets (4 badges) £10 per set
- Full 24 badges (6 sets) £55.00

Allow 14 days for delivery

Cheques and postal orders to:

J.K. SMITH

BADGES OF DISTINCTION

40 SOMERSET WAYE, HESTON, MIDDX TW5 9HG
Tel. 081-570 8105

Also available at
SOCCER SCENE, Carnaby Street, London W1. 071-439 0778

VIDEOS

VHS Soccer for sale or swap, mainly British World Cup also (Huge collection) good prices. Contact Mike Nicholas, 22 Chestnut Close, Rowan Way, Rassau, Ebbw Vale, Gwent NP3 5UR.

VIDEOS, photos and books of Australia. Australian soccer fan, collect everything about the socceroos from down under. André Krüger, Tollenbrink 14, 3000 Hannover, West Germany.

VHS VIDEOS of Liverpool and of tennis games involving Bjorn Borg. Will reliable contacts from all over the world please write with their lists. G. Davis, 6 Beaconsfield Road, Norton, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland TS20 1JN, England.

VIDEOS

VERTEX VIDEO WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE RELEASE OF "SPURS OF THE SIXTIES".

A great new video featuring exciting action from the following memorable matches. Spurs v Leicester City (1961), Spurs v Atletico Madrid (1963), Spurs v Chelsea (1967). This video is available as an introductory offer to WORLD SOCCER readers at only £12.50 (p&p £1.50/overseas £5). Our new catalogue is now available featuring internationals, World Cups, FA Cups and League Cup Matches from 1954 onwards. To ensure your copy send 25p stamps or P.O. (Overseas 50p) to

VERTEX VIDEO, 42 Keswick Avenue, Hornchurch, Essex RM11 1XR

ALPHA PLUS SOCCER VIDEOS

VHS SOCCER VIDEOS:

World Cup qualifiers, International, Spanish, Argentinian, Scottish, Football Specialist, Cup Finals £7.00. Official tapes as low as £8.50. Send sae for list.

Tez Hussain, 40 Mansfield Road, Aberdeen AB1 3LA, Scotland.

CLUB SHOPS

COVENTRY CITY FC "SKY BLUE SHOP"

Official Coventry City souvenirs in stock now.

New replica kits, sweatshirts, ties, scarves and many more.

Send SAE for our new price list to:-

SKY BLUE SHOP, Coventry City FC, Thackhall Street, Coventry CV2 4GW

PEN PALS

SPORTING PENPALS. Hundreds of sport loving penpals from over 60 countries. All ages, all sports, both sexes waiting to hear from you. Further details please write enclosing SAE to Penteck Ltd, Department WS, PO Box 88, Epsom Surrey, England.

ENGLISH SOCCER FAN wishes to correspond with fans of Dutch, Italian and Spanish football. Please write in English to Gerard Griffin, 'St Gerard', Ardlea Rd, Ennis, Co. Clare, Republic of Ireland.

PENPAL MAG for lonely people, approval copy from:- Matchmaker, (X.48), Chorley, Lancs.

COMPETITION

WORLD CUP 1990 COMPETITION. Win a free season ticket at the Football League club of your choice or £200 worth of sports goods in this great easy to enter competition. For full details and an entry form, send SAE now to Pentect (World Cup Comp), P.O. Box 88, Epsom, Surrey KT18 7JG.

FOR SALE

ORIGINAL PAINTINGS of absolutely any footballer. Past, present and foreign, your name. 42 x 31 cm, £23 framed, £11 unframed. Send 25% deposit. Full payment after inspection. Dirk Bushby, PO Box 387, Rottingdean BN2 6PN.

WORLD SOCCER 1972-86, excellent condition, offers. C. Rowley, 9 Daventry Close, Derby DE3 5QT.

FOR SALE customed videos (VHS), for list send s.a.e. to: Videos, 2 Shawfield Close, Sutton Hill, Telford, Shropshire TF7 5HH.

POSTCARDS of professional teams, players and stadia world-wide, 1900 to the present day. Paul Macnamara, 173 Northumberland Road, North Harrow, Middx HA2 7RB.

WORLD Soccer back numbers, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1986 with binders, if possible. Must be in good condition, good priced paid. B. Hourston, Ythanville, St. Ola, Orkney KW15 1TP.

SPANISH FOOTBALL DIRECTORY £4.00, includes all first and second division clubs, addresses, colours, stadiums, capacity, formation dates, full 1989/90 squads, honours, latest final league tables, personal cheques, PO, IMO, cash, Lawrence Podesta, PO Box 610, Gibraltar. Postage included in price.

SULL SPORTS

MAIL ORDER DIVISION

We welcome customers at:–

88, Pontmorlais, MERTHYR TYDFIL SOUTH WALES Tel. 0685 722576

14, Oxford Arcade, CARDIFF SOUTH WALES Tel. 0222 227609

We are export specialists in all types of football equipment.

Major stockists of:

NEW BALANCE, ADIDAS, UMBRO, GOLA, ASICS, MITRE, LOTTO, PATRICK, SPALL, STAR

We will export any amount, anywhere. Please call or write for quotes on bulk orders.

WORLD CUP JERSEYS NOW IN STOCK

HOLLAND	SPAIN	BRAZIL	CAMEROON	COLOMBIA
EIRE	BELGIUM	SOUTH KOREA	ROMANIA	URUGUAY
WEST GERMANY	ENGLAND	USA	COSTA RICA	EGYPT
USSR	SCOTLAND	AUSTRIA	UAE	ARGENTINA
SWEDEN	ITALY	CZECHOSLOVAKIA	YUGOSLAVIA	

Please call for our competitive prices

UK TEAM STRIPS – A full range now in stock – Please call for competitive prices

A large selection of goalkeeping equipment, footballs and shin pads now in stock

new balance SPECIAL OFFERS

SE 316 – all leather moulded boot. Sizes 6-11 were £29.95 **NOW £21.95**

SE 007 – The Robson Junior screw in boot. Sizes 13-6 were £19.95 **NOW £14.95**

SE 190 – leather screw in boot. Sizes 6-11 (inc half sizes) were £29.95 **NOW £24.95**

SE 216 – durable synthetic leather moulded boot. Sizes 6-11 were £25.95 **NOW £17.95**

SE 290 – full grain leather screw in boot. Sizes 6-11 were £36.95 **NOW £28.95**

CREDIT CARD AND INFORMATION HOTLINES

Access **0685 89663** **0685 722576** **OPEN UNTIL 8PM (DAYTIME)** VISA

ORDER FORM AND INFORMATION

POSTAGE & PACKING WITHIN THE UK CLOTHING – under £15 – £1; over £15 – FREE; Footwear – £2 per item

POSTAGE RATES FOR OUTSIDE UK

ORDER VALUE	EIRE	EUROPE	R of W
Up to £50	£2.00	£5.00	£10.00
£51 to £100	£5.00	£10.00	£20.00
Above £101	£2.50 per £50 order value	£5.00 per £50 order value	£100 per £50 order value

Just fill in the form and send it to:
SULL SPORTS, 88 PONTMORLAIS, MERTHYR TYDFIL, SOUTH WALES CF47 8UH

NAME .....
ADDRESS .....
.....
.....
POSTCODE..... TELEPHONE NO. .....
Please state item, size and quantity of any articles orders on a separate sheet.
All payments to be made in sterling.
I enclose a crossed cheque or P.O. made payable to Sull Sports value £.....
Credit Card Payment Card Type.....
Card No. .....
Expiry Date..... Signature .....
European – Mastercard – Eurocard accepted W/S2

VIDEOS

VHS Soccer for sale or swap, mainly British World Cup also (Huge collection) good prices. Contact Mike Nicholas, 22 Chestnut Close, Rowan Way, Rassau, Ebbw Vale, Gwent NP3 5UR.

VIDEOS, photos and books of Australia. Australian soccer fan, collect everything about the socceroos from down under. André Krüger, Tollenbrink 14, 3000 Hannover, West Germany.

VHS VIDEOS of Liverpool and of tennis games involving Bjorn Borg. Will reliable contacts from all over the world please write with their lists. G. Davis, 6 Beaconsfield Road, Norton, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland TS20 1JN, England.

VIDEOS

VERTEX WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE

THE RELEASE OF "SPURS OF THE SIXTIES".

A great new video featuring exciting action from the following memorable matches. Spurs v Leicester City (1961), Spurs v Atletico Madrid (1963), Spurs v Chelsea (1967). This video is available as an introductory offer to WORLD SOCCER readers at only £12.50 (p&p £1.50/overseas £5). Our new catalogue is now available featuring internationals, World Cups, FA Cups and League Cup Matches from 1954 onwards. To ensure your copy send 25p stamps or P.O. (Overseas 50p) to

VERTEX VIDEO, 42 Keswick Avenue, Hornchurch, Essex RM11 1XR

ALPHA PLUS SOCCER VIDEOS

VHS SOCCER VIDEOS:

World Cup qualifiers, International, Spanish, Argentinian, Scottish, Football Specialist, Cup Finals £7.00. Official tapes as low as £8.50. Send sae for list.

Tez Hussain, 40 Mansfield Road, Aberdeen AB1 3LA, Scotland.

CLUB SHOPS

COVENTRY CITY FC "SKY BLUE SHOP"

Official Coventry City souvenirs in stock now.

New replica kits, sweatshirts, ties, scarves and many more.

Send SAE for our new price list to:-

SKY BLUE SHOP, Coventry City FC, Thackhall Street, Coventry CV2 4GW

PEN PALS

SPORTING PENPALS. Hundreds of sport loving penpals from over 60 countries. All ages, all sports, both sexes waiting to hear from you. Further details please write enclosing SAE to Penteck Ltd, Department WS, PO Box 88, Epsom Surrey, England.

ENGLISH SOCCER FAN wishes to correspond with fans of Dutch, Italian and Spanish football. Please write in English to Gerard Griffin, 'St Gerard', Ardlea Rd, Ennis, Co. Clare, Republic of Ireland.

PENPAL MAG for lonely people, approval copy from:- Matchmaker, (X.48), Chorley, Lancs.

COMPETITION

WORLD CUP 1990 COMPETITION. Win a free season ticket at the Football League club of your choice or £200 worth of sports goods in this great easy to enter competition. For full details and an entry form, send SAE now to Pentect (World Cup Comp), P.O. Box 88, Epsom, Surrey KT18 7JG.

FOR SALE

ORIGINAL PAINTINGS of absolutely any footballer. Past, present and foreign, your name. 42 x 31 cm, £23 framed, £11 unframed. Send 25% deposit. Full payment after inspection. Dirk Bushby, PO Box 387, Rottingdean BN2 6PN.

WORLD SOCCER 1972-86, excellent condition, offers. C. Rowley, 9 Daventry Close, Derby DE3 5QT.

FOR SALE customed videos (VHS), for list send s.a.e. to: Videos, 2 Shawfield Close, Sutton Hill, Telford, Shropshire TF7 5HH.

POSTCARDS of professional teams, players and stadia world-wide, 1900 to the present day. Paul Macnamara, 173 Northumberland Road, North Harrow, Middx HA2 7RB.

WORLD Soccer back numbers, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1986 with binders, if possible. Must be in good condition, good priced paid. B. Hourston, Ythanville, St. Ola, Orkney KW15 1TP.

SPANISH FOOTBALL DIRECTORY £4.00, includes all first and second division clubs, addresses, colours, stadiums, capacity, formation dates, full 1989/90 squads, honours, latest final league tables, personal cheques, PO, IMO, cash, Lawrence Podesta, PO Box 610, Gibraltar. Postage included in price.

CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

ALL HEADINGS – 20p per word (Inclusive of VAT)

NAME .....

ADDRESS (BLOCK CAPITALS) .....

.....

.....

DAYTIME PHONE NO. .....

If you wish your name and address in your ad it must be included in the cost. TELEPHONE NUMBERS OVER 7 DIGITS COUNT AS 2 WORDS.

All advertisements must be pre-paid

CHEQUES MADE PAYABLE TO IPC MAGAZINES.

I enclose PO/Cheque for £ .....

Nos of insertions .....

Post to:
WORLD SOCCER SHOP WINDOW
26th FLOOR, KINGS REACH TOWER, STAMFORD ST, LONDON SE1 9LS.

BOX NO. FEE £18 PER INSERTION. A BOX NUMBER INCLUDED IN THE ADVERT WILL COUNT AS THREE WORDS. HEAVY BLOCK CAPITALS after the first two words are charged at double rate.

SECTION HEADING .....

Write your ad here in block capitals. One word per box.
Please remember to include your address.

SULL SPORTS

MAIL ORDER DIVISION

We welcome customers at:–

88, Pontmorlais, MERTHYR TYDFIL SOUTH WALES Tel. 0685 722576

14, Oxford Arcade, CARDIFF SOUTH WALES Tel. 0222 227609

We are export specialists in all types of football equipment.

Major stockists of:

NEW BALANCE, ADIDAS, UMBRO, GOLA, ASICS, MITRE, LOTTO, PATRICK, SPALL, STAR

We will export any amount, anywhere. Please call or write for quotes on bulk orders.

WORLD CUP JERSEYS NOW IN STOCK

HOLLAND, EIRE, WEST GERMANY, USSR, SWEDEN, SPAIN, BELGIUM, ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, ITALY, BRAZIL, SOUTH KOREA, USA, AUSTRIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, CAMEROON, ROMANIA, COSTA RICA, UAE, YUGOSLAVIA, COLOMBIA, URUGUAY, EGYPT, ARGENTINA

Please call for our competitive prices

UK TEAM STRIPS – A full range now in stock – Please call for competitive prices

A large selection of goalkeeping equipment, footballs and shin pads now in stock

new balance SPECIAL OFFERS

SE 316 – all leather moulded boot. Sizes 6-11 were £29.95 **NOW £21.95**

SE 007 – The Robson Junior screw in boot. Sizes 13-6 were £19.95 **NOW £14.95**

SE 190 – leather screw in boot. Sizes 6-11 (inc half sizes) were £29.95 **NOW £24.95**

SE 216 – durable synthetic leather moulded boot. Sizes 6-11 were £25.95 **NOW £17.95**

SE 290 – full grain leather screw in boot. Sizes 6-11 were £36.95 **NOW £28.95**

CREDIT CARD AND INFORMATION HOTLINES

Access **0685 89663** **0685 722576** **OPEN UNTIL 8PM (DAYTIME)** VISA

ORDER FORM AND INFORMATION

POSTAGE & PACKING WITHIN THE UK CLOTHING – under £15 – £1; over £15 – FREE; Footwear – £2 per item

POSTAGE RATES FOR OUTSIDE UK

ORDER VALUE	EIRE	EUROPE	R of W
Up to £50	£2.00	£5.00	£10.00
£51 to £100	£5.00	£10.00	£20.00
Above £101	£2.50 per £50 order value	£5.00 per £50 order value	£100 per £50 order value

Just fill in the form and send it to:
SULL SPORTS, 88 PONTMORLAIS, MERTHYR TYDFIL, SOUTH WALES CF47 8UH

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

.....

POSTCODE ..... TELEPHONE NO. .....

Please state item, size and quantity of any articles orders on a separate sheet.

All payments to be made in sterling.

I enclose a crossed cheque or P.O. made payable to Sull Sports value £.....

Credit Card Payment Card Type.....

Card No. .....

Expiry Date ..... Signature .....

European – Mastercard – Eurocard accepted W/S2

English soccer at its best!

BY DERICK ALLSOP

WE may decry the quality and technique of English football, but there are days when the old country's version of the old game is simply irresistible. Sunday April 8, 1990 was such a day.

Television exercised its increasing if irritating rights to give the nation live coverage of the semi-finals: Crystal Palace v Liverpool starting at noon, Manchester United v Oldham Athletic at 3.30.

The venture could have back-fired horribly. This stage of the competition – one from Wembley – is notorious for its dour, tense, tedious contests. It is not uncommon for these ties to be decided by a scrappy, single goal.

Not this time. The BBC and the watching millions were rewarded with a magnificent marathon. We had four hours of drama, 13 goals and the end of Liverpool's double dream.

Underdogs Palace beat the Cup holders 4-3 after extra time to reach their first Wembley final. Underdogs Oldham held United 3-3 after extra time to keep alive their hopes of a second Wembley final this season.

The extraordinary spectacle began at Villa Park with a not so extraordinary piece of craftsmanship by Liverpool. Steve McMahon retrieved the ball in midfield, advanced until he knew the moment was right and then pushed the ball into the diagonal path of Ian Rush. The Welsh forward allowed the ball to run until he, too, knew the moment was right and clipped the ball wide of goalkeeper Nigel Martyn.

Palace threatened reprisals late in the first half and after the break hit back before Liverpool could re-group. Full-back John Pemberton's right-wing run and centre caused havoc, John Salako was unlucky with his shot, Mark Bright wasn't. They were level.

Liverpool, not for the first time vulnerable at set pieces, went behind from Andy Gray's 70th minute free-kick. Bright went hunting, the ball fell for defender Gary O'Reilly and Palace were ahead.

Twelve minutes later they were behind again. Substitutes Steve Staunton and Barry Venison combined intelligently from a free-kick to set up McMahon and the midfield player struck a splendid equaliser. Then John Barnes scored from the penalty spot and it seemed the gods had turned their backs on Palace.

But two minutes from the end of normal time Gray made it 3-3 with Liverpool's defence again in tatters and only the crossbar denied Palace the winner 60 seconds later.

That deserved fourth goal for Palace arrived in the 109th minute. Andy Thorn flicked on Gray's corner and Alan Pardew sealed a famous triumph.

Magnificent

Palace's Liverpool-born manager Steve Coppell said: "This is a magnificent day for the club. After losing to Liverpool 9-0 and 2-0 this season I would have been happy just to score."

Surely, we thought, there couldn't be more of the same in store at Maine Road. There was. Jim Leighton's error allowed in defender Earl Barrett to give Second Division Oldham the lead after just three minutes.

United equalised after 30 minutes – through that man Bryan Robson. The England captain, recovered from a hernia operation and playing his first senior game since Christmas Eve, took advantage of a through ball from his international colleague Neil Webb, making only his second full appearance in almost seven months.

Webb's back-header put United into the lead after a tiring Robson had departed, but Ian Marshall ensured another encore for the gallery to enjoy.

Substitute Danny Wallace rolled United back into the lead, only for Oldham substitute Roger Palmer to equalise again and send the tie to a replay.

Liverpool, FA Cup favourites before high noon at Villa Park, were still favourites for the League Championship. Their three-point lead at the top of the First Division owed as much to Aston Villa's stumble as their own sureness of step.

Villa were beaten 2-1 at home by relegation threatened Manchester City and had no complaints about the result. The Midlands club have bought Republic of Ireland striker Tony Cascarino from Millwall but he is not finding settling in a straight forward process.

After the match Villa manager Graham Taylor virtually conceded the title to Liverpool. He said: "I always favoured them for the Championship because they have the experience and depth of squad. It looks like being the way now."

WREXHAM BACK IN EUROPE

BY MARK WEST

Wrexham, faced with demotion from the Football League, will be the Welsh representatives in next season European Cup-Winners' Cup.

The Racecourse side overcame Barry Town in the Welsh Cup semi-finals by the slender 1-0 aggregate margin. With English side Hereford beating Cardiff 4-3 on aggregate in a thrilling two-legged affair, Wrexham automatically qualify for Europe.

Wrexham are managed by former international Brian Flynn. Flynn took over from Dixie McNeill at the beginning of November.

Results since February have given cause for optimism. However, they are still left in a dangerous position fighting with Halifax and Colchester for survival in the Football League which they joined back in 1921.

The 'Robins' have appeared in 40 previous Welsh Cup Finals (winning 21) and represented the country in Europe on five occasions.

Ninian Park will play host to the Wales v Costa Rica clash. But host club Cardiff City have been experiencing financial difficulties with the club threatened with closure unless outstanding debts owed to South Wales Police Authority were not paid.

Wales were beaten 1-0 by the Republic of Ireland in March. It was the first time the Irish had got the better of the Welsh. Bernie Slaven beat Neville Southall with an 86th minute effort.

Crystal Palace get that Wembley feeling after beating Liverpool 4-3.

Brady plays for charity

BY SEAN CREEDON

Two contrasting testimonials in Ireland this month. On May 16 the Republic play Finland at Lansdowne Road in Liam Brady's testimonial game. This will be the Republic's last home game before Italy.

Brady has admitted that he is 'not short of a few bob' and he has decided to donate £50,000 from the receipts of the game to the Drugs Awareness Programme in his native Dublin. It's the first time the Republic will play a full international as a testimonial game for a player.

Since he made his international debut in October 1974 in the memorable 3-0 win over the Soviet Union, he has been Ireland's star player. He won a record 71 caps, scored nine goals and captained his country 12 times. Sadly Brady missed the 1988 European Championship finals because of injury and suspension and last September gave up the chance of going to the World Cup with the Irish squad when he announced his retirement after being substituted after only 35 minutes of the friendly against West Germany.

On May 8 Newcastle will play Derry at Brandywell in a benefit for Derry's Liam Coyle. Coyle, 21, who was capped by Northern Ireland last year, has been forced to give up playing because of a serious knee injury.

Waterford will return to the Premier Division of the League of Ireland next season as champions of the first. Waterford, who finished level on points with Sligo Rovers at the top of the first division, won the play-off 2-1 on aggregate.

The Blues are managed by English-born John Matthews, who played for Waterford.

Portadown chase history

BY MARK WEST

Portadown continue to lead the chase for the Irish League Championship. Indeed, the Craigavon club are on the verge of bringing both the national title and the Irish Cup back to Shamrock Park.

Such a potentially historic event convinced striker Andy Fraser to delay his emigration to Australia. The 21-year-old forward has formed a formidible partnership with Steve Cowan, the Scot on loan from Motherwell.

The suspension of Marty Magee appeared to have severely damaged Portadown's Championship claims. However, the loss of such a prolific goalscorer went almost unnoticed as a the Fraser-Cowan duo found the net 22 times.

Northern Ireland played a friendly against Norway as Billy Bingham looks towards the European Championships. Unfortunately, the Windsor Park faithful- 4,000 of them – saw the Irish go down 3-2.

Bingham has been searching for a worthy successor to the legendary Pat Jennings since 1986. His cause was not helped by Lee Butler deciding that he wanted to play for England.

Butler, who is with Aston Villa, had previously played two youth international friendlies for Northern Ireland.

English soccer at its best!

BY DERICK ALLSOP

WE may decry the quality and technique of English football, but there are days when the old country's version of the old game is simply irresistible. Sunday April 8, 1990 was such a day.

Television exercised its increasing if irritating rights to give the nation live coverage of the semi-finals: Crystal Palace v Liverpool starting at noon, Manchester United v Oldham Athletic at 3.30.

The venture could have back-fired horribly. This stage of the competition – one from Wembley – is notorious for its dour, tense, tedious contests. It is not uncommon for these ties to be decided by a scrappy, single goal.

Not this time. The BBC and the watching millions were rewarded with a magnificent marathon. We had four hours of drama, 13 goals and the end of Liverpool's double dream.

Underdogs Palace beat the Cup holders 4-3 after extra time to reach their first Wembley final. Underdogs Oldham held United 3-3 after extra time to keep alive their hopes of a second Wembley final this season.

The extraordinary spectacle began at Villa Park with a not so extraordinary piece of craftsmanship by Liverpool. Steve McMahon retrieved the ball in midfield, advanced until he knew the moment was right and then pushed the ball into the diagonal path of Ian Rush. The Welsh forward allowed the ball to run until he, too, knew the moment was right and clipped the ball wide of goalkeeper Nigel Martyn.

Palace threatened reprisals late in the first half and after the break hit back before Liverpool could re-group. Full-back John Pemberton's right-wing run and centre caused havoc, John Salako was unlucky with his shot, Mark Bright wasn't. They were level.

Liverpool, not for the first time vulnerable at set pieces, went behind from Andy Gray's 70th minute free-kick. Bright went hunting, the ball fell for defender Gary O'Reilly and Palace were ahead.

Twelve minutes later they were behind again. Substitutes Steve Staunton and Barry Venison combined intelligently from a free-kick to set up McMahon and the midfield player struck a splendid equaliser. Then John Barnes scored from the penalty spot and it seemed the gods had turned their backs on Palace.

But two minutes from the end of normal time Gray made it 3-3 with Liverpool's defence again in tatters and only the crossbar denied Palace the winner 60 seconds later.

That deserved fourth goal for Palace arrived in the 109th minute. Andy Thorn flicked on Gray's corner and Alan Pardew sealed a famous triumph.

Magnificent

Palace's Liverpool-born manager Steve Coppell said: "This is a magnificent day for the club. After losing to Liverpool 9-0 and 2-0 this season I would have been happy just to score."

Surely, we thought, there couldn't be more of the same in store at Maine Road. There was. Jim Leighton's error allowed in defender Earl Barrett to give Second Division Oldham the lead after just three minutes.

United equalised after 30 minutes – through that man Bryan Robson. The England captain, recovered from a hernia operation and playing his first senior game since Christmas Eve, took advantage of a through ball from his international colleague Neil Webb, making only his second full appearance in almost seven months.

Webb's back-header put United into the lead after a tiring Robson had departed, but Ian Marshall ensured another encore for the gallery to enjoy.

Substitute Danny Wallace rolled United back into the lead, only for Oldham substitute Roger Palmer to equalise again and send the tie to a replay.

Liverpool, FA Cup favourites before high noon at Villa Park, were still favourites for the League Championship. Their three-point lead at the top of the First Division owed as much to Aston Villa's stumble as their own sureness of step.

Villa were beaten 2-1 at home by relegation threatened Manchester City and had no complaints about the result. The Midlands club have bought Republic of Ireland striker Tony Cascarino from Millwall but he is not finding settling in a straight forward process.

After the match Villa manager Graham Taylor virtually conceded the title to Liverpool. He said: "I always favoured them for the Championship because they have the experience and depth of squad. It looks like being the way now."

Crystal Palace get that Wembley feeling after beating Liverpool 4-3.

WREXHAM BACK IN EUROPE

BY MARK WEST

Wrexham, faced with demotion from the Football League, will be the Welsh representatives in next season European Cup-Winners' Cup.

The Racecourse side overcame Barry Town in the Welsh Cup semi-finals by the slender 1-0 aggregate margin. With English side Hereford beating Cardiff 4-3 on aggregate in a thrilling two-legged affair, Wrexham automatically qualify for Europe.

Wrexham are managed by former international Brian Flynn. Flynn took over from Dixie McNeill at the beginning of November.

Results since February have given cause for optimism. However, they are still left in a dangerous position fighting with Halifax and Colchester for survival in the Football League which they joined back in 1921.

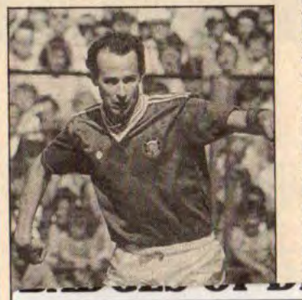
The 'Robins' have appeared in 40 previous Welsh Cup Finals (winning 21) and represented the country in Europe on five occasions.

Ninian Park will play host to the Wales v Costa Rica clash. But host club Cardiff City have been experiencing financial difficulties with the club threatened with closure unless outstanding debts owed to South Wales Police Authority were not paid.

Wales were beaten 1-0 by the Republic of Ireland in March. It was the first time the Irish had got the better of the Welsh. Bernie Slaven beat Neville Southall with an 86th minute effort.

Brady plays for charity

BY SEAN CREEDON



Two contrasting testimonials in Ireland this month. On May 16 the Republic play Finland at Lansdowne Road in Liam Brady's testimonial game. This will be the Republic's last home game before Italy.

Brady has admitted that he is 'not short of a few bob' and he has decided to donate £50,000 from the receipts of the game to the Drugs Awareness Programme in his native Dublin. It's the first time the Republic will play a full international as a testimonial game for a player.

Since he made his international debut in October 1974 in the memorable 3-0 win over the Soviet Union, he has been Ireland's star player. He won a record 71 caps, scored nine goals and captained his country 12 times. Sadly Brady missed the 1988 European Championship finals because of injury and suspension and last September gave up the chance of going to the World Cup with the Irish squad when he announced his retirement after being substituted after only 35 minutes of

WORLD CUP 1990

Group A	Group B	Group C
Italy	Argentina	Brazil
Austria	Cameroon	Sweden
USA	USSR	Costa Rica
Czech'vakia	Romania	Scotland
Group D	**Group E**	**Group F**
W. Germany	Belgium	England
Yugoslavia	S. Korea	Rep. Ireland
UAE	Uruguay	Holland
Columbia	Spain	Egypt

- Limited edition
- Single badge £3.00 each
- Group sets (4 badges) £10 per set
- Full 24 badges (6 sets) £55.00

Allow 14 days for delivery

Cheques and postal orders to:

J.K. SMITH

BADGES OF DISTINCTION

40 SOMERSET WAYE, HESTON, MIDDX TW5 9HG
Tel. 081-570 8105

Also available at
SOCCER SCENE, Carnaby Street, London W1. 071-439 0778

Celtic jigsaw still a jumble

BY ALEX GORDON

Celtic have explored every avenue possible this season in their considerable efforts to exhaust the patience of their fans.

They completed one decade with a 2-0 defeat from Dunfermline at Parkhead and then kicked off a new decade with another home game and another defeat, this time from arch rivals Rangers, Nigel Spackman getting the only goal of the game. That, effectively, was the abrupt end of a rather shaky championship attempt.

Europe, once the scene of so many memorable triumphs, was over and done in a blizzard of errors at the first stage when a mediocre Partizan Belgrade team managed to score four goals at Parkhead and eventually squeeze through on away goals.

Dreams of victory in the elusive League Cup evaporated in the semi-final when they lost 1-0 to a superb effort from Aberdeen's Ian Cameron and also lost the services of captain Roy Aitken, later to join Newcastle United, sent off after a late foul on fellow international Jim Bett.

And, yet, Celtic are only 90 minutes away from making club history – if they beat Aberdeen at Hampden on May 12 they will lift the Scottish Cup for the third successive season and that is something even the great Celtic teams of the past have been unable to achieve.

But Celtic must realise that even a 7-0 triumph over Aberdeen – and that could only be achieved if the Pittodrie players were blindfolded and their bootlaces tied together – would be the merest flirtation with glory in a painful season for their supporters.

Celtic did everything just about right during their centenary year. Prodigal son Billy McNeill returned to take over from the unlucky and unfortunate David Hay and the club swept to the League and Scottish Cup double.

But problems lured around the corner. Celtic fans realised only too well that Celtic had got a lot out of the legs of Tommy Burns, Billy Stark and Mark McGhee while average players such as Allen McKnight, before his nightmare transfer to West Ham, Anton Rogan, Lex Baillie and Owen Archdeacon all rose above normal to do their bit.

Celtic lost only three games that season and were carried along by the enthusiasm of McNeill and his assistant Tommy Craig off the park as well as flashes of inspiration from Paul McStay, Pat Bonner, Roy Aitken, Frank McAvennie and Andy Walker on the field.

During the summer Celtic didn't buy a single player. Billy McNeill seemed content with what he had. That was playing a dangerous game.

Problems

The Scottish Cup victory over Rangers at Hampden last season deflected once more from the growing problems. They relinquished their League crown to Rangers, finishing third, ten points behind the Ibrox men.

Mo Johnston's will-he-sign- won't-he-on-off transfer saga throughout the summer at least provided a talking point before he did a somersault and joined Rangers, of all clubs, in their barrier breaking deal.

Jacki Dziekanowski, known as Poland's answer to George Best, brought his playboy image to Glasgow and the fans adored his skilful touches, but he faded lamentably after the turn of the year.

John Hewitt arrived in a £250,000 deal from Aberdeen, a player known to be troubled with injuries.

Utility player Mike Galloway arrived at the start of the term in a £500,00 move from Hearts. Again the fans took to his powerful surges, but he too couldn't find the consistency.

Paul Elliott moved in from Italian club Pisa for £650,000 to replace the outgoing Mick McCarthy, on his way to Lyon for £500,000, and Celtic were left to put a new central defensive partnership together.

Poland's World Cup campaigner Dariusz Wdowczyk also arrived in a £400,000 transfer in November to at long last solve the left-back problem which has beset the club for years.

Celtic, then, were hastily putting together a jigsaw that should have been pieced together over a period of time.

That jigsaw is still a jumble and, quite obviously, a few pieces are still missing.

To be fair to Aberdeen, they, too, have also had to re-organise and they have done so with a bit more guile and purpose. They had the wits about them to go out and plunder the Dutch market and come back with Hans Gillhaus, a £650,000 purchase from PSV Eindhoven. He scores excellent goals and has formed an immediate partnership with old Celtic favourite Charlie Nicholas.

Theo Snelders, also hampered by injuries this season, is one of my favourite goalkeepers and he had a magnificent match in the Skol Cup Final against Rangers this season when the Dons won 2-1.

Aberdeen have also coped with the lengthy absence of captain Willie Miller, sweeper supreme. But all credit to Alex McLeish for the way he has led them from the back.

Celtic fans loved the playboy image of Jacki Dziekanowski, who scored four goals against Partizan Belgrade.

FRANCE BY ANDREW DUCLOS

DIAZ MISSES THE ENGLISH CONNECTION

Ramon Diaz had a great first season in France.

IF George Weah mourns the loss of Glenn Hoddle, then Ramon Diaz mourns that of Mark Hateley. With Weah and Hateley beside him, says the Argentine international centre-forward, Monaco would have the best attack in the French League.

Not that he doesn't miss Hoddle, too; he respects him, and he does. But Hateley was clearly his ideal fellow spearhead.

Now 30, Diaz has had a splendid first season in France with Monaco, even if he began it late – having only just left Inter, with an Italian championship medal – and even if he did miss the first leg of the quarter final against Valladolid, being suspended.

He seems to have given up hope of playing for Argentina in the coming World Cup although, as we know, he was the star of Monaco's 2-0 win last year against his own country.

But Carlos Bilardo has actually said that he won't be among those present: despite the fact that President Menem says he should be.

Menem, says Diaz, is an old friend; they come from the same part of the country. As to the breach with Maradona which is clearly behind his exclusion from the national squad, he won't be specific.

No, he says, it is not just that he is one who has criticised Maradona in public. Spurned friendship lies behind it. They were, you may remember at one time good friends; and team mates in the Argentine youth side.

When I say that Diaz has given up hope of an Argentine recall, it must be recorded that he does say, with a twinkle in his eye, that if Jorge Valdano has been brought back at such an age after so many years, there may be hope for him in 1994!

He would like to take out Italian nationality, Diaz says; for a rather peculiar reason. If he does, then as an EEC member he would no longer have to be classified as a foreigner with Monaco.

There are conflicting views of the Hungarian international attacker, Kalman Kovacs, now with Auxerre; and both sides of the debate were given ammunition within a few days, recently. First, Kovacs played, failed to score, or to make much impact, for Auxerre in their second, home, leg in the UEFA Cup, against Fiorentina; who won 1-0.

Three days later came a burst of three goals in the League for Auxerre against . . . Diaz's Monaco. A 4-2 away win, handsome indeed. Form which could hardly be suspected in the drab performance against Fiorentina. The former Chelsea manager Johnny Hollins, who watched the game, called it incredibly poor.

The only Auxerre player who impressed him was the lively under-21 international right winger, Cocard, who when he got the ball always tried to take on the Italian defenders; and was usually fouled by them. Hollins said that in the end Auxerre stopped giving him the ball; a great error.

As for Kovacs, he surely had the last laugh, in Monte Carlo, on those who had been criticising him for not turning his great technical talents into goals.

Failure

Kovacs, for all his classical Hungarian skills, is essentially a team man, who tried to put those talents at the service of his colleagues. But perhaps he was simply exasperated by his club's failure to break through against Fiorentina, and simply decided enough was enough.

Kovacs won't be going to the World Cup, but Carlos Valderrama of Colombia will; and please note that he is at long last in form. So much so that Montpellier must be very glad they did not get rid of the dreadlocked, blond midfielder last season.

As the first Colombian ever to play in European football, surely he was entitled to take a little while to settle down.

Not shining, however, has been another midfielder who will play in the World Cup, one presumes; the Belgian international Enzo Scifo of Auxerre. The replacing of the unpopular Walter Meeuws, with whom he had clashed, by the veteran Guy Thys should mean that Scifo will win back a regular place for Belgium, but this year he has been struggling for weeks against an injury.

Montpellier are glad they didn't axe their colourful Colombian Carlos Valderrama.

Once again, alas, the seats at the Parc des Princes have been used as missiles. Not this time by Leeds United fans, as occurred during the European Cup Final of 1975, but by the hooligan followers of Paris Saint-Germain, against Cannes.

These ultras, extreme right wingers for the most part, were furious when they were forbidden to bring their flags and banners into the ground. The riot police had to restore peace.

The veteran Mick McCarthy may not have had a happy time at Lyon this season, never perhaps having really recovered from the rout by Marseille in the opening home game of the season. Now he is with Millwall where alas he again made a sad start, with that own goal at Luton.

SWITZERLAND BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

Ton-up Hermann reaches milestone

SWITZERLAND'S most distinguished footballer of the past decade has passed a memorable milestone of his illustrious career.

Heinz Hermann, 32, the classy midfielder now with Servette, played his 100th international in the 2-1 win – in itself a rarity these days – against World Cup qualifiers Rumania.

Curiously enough, he celebrated his first international on the same ground in Lucerne as a 20-year-old on September 6, 1978 against the US. Against Rumania Hermann scored a goal – his 11th in national colours. He established two records, for he once played in 71 successive internationals and served under six different national team managers.

Switzerland's victory was well received in the media although the opposition was largely weakened by the absence of the Dinamo Bucharest players preparing for a Cup-winners' Cup tie against Anderlecht the following day. But the Swiss too were without some established men; team boss Uli Stielike is beginning to rebuild the side before the European Championship qualifiers.

What must have pleased him particularly was the marvellous goal scored by the debutant and the youngest player Frederic Chassot (Xamax) who is just 21.

500 up

The previous match three days earlier ended in a 1-0 defeat by Italy in Basle. This was Switzerland's 500th international.

In the play-off for the championship Xamax extended their lead at the top of the eight-team table to four points over Lausanne and Lugano, who shared third spot with Grasshoppers. A famous newcomer to the Swiss soccer scene is the former Dutch World Cup star Ruud Krol, 41, who has taken over as manager at Servette, currently playing in the so-called "relegation" pool. Krol, who replaced Peter Pazmandy, had been fired by Belgian champions Mechelen.

POLAND BY BOB VAUGHAN

GKS battle it out

GKS Katowice and Zaglebie Lubin are level top exactly two thirds of the way through the season which is proving disappointing for Gornik and Ruch. The latter were seen off by Katowice who have edged ahead of Lubin on goal difference.

Bak's and Gesior's misses cost Ruch a two-goal lead in Katowice who took the game in the second half through a Swierczewski header and a Pieckarczyk penalty.

At the wrong end of the table, Motor Lublin have revived to take full points from Lubin after another loss in Warsaw, to Legia. The Army Club will be hoping for a UEFA place from the run in and will have been heartened by Zawisza's defeat by lowly Stal in Mielec.

On the international front preparations are beginning for the European Championship and another difficult match, at Wembley. Some 8,000 spectators attended a goalless draw with Yugoslavia in Lodz.

HOLLAND BY SIMON KUPER

Hiddink to go after explosion at PSV

GUUS HIDDINK, PSV Eindhoven's coach, will leave the club at the end of the season. He has become the victim of the rows between leading players which have damaged PSV so much this year.

PSV told Hiddink that he will have to go after he gave interviews criticising the club. His problem was that Gerald Vanenburg, Soren Lerby, Wim Kieft, Hans Van Breukelen and Ivan Nielsen were quarrelling with him and each other, while Hiddink felt that Kees Ploegsma, PSV's general manager, was listening to the players' grievances.

The problems will drag on until the end of the season, but whoever replaces Hiddink next year should be able to start afresh.

Ivan Nielsen, who criticised Hiddink after being dropped, is to go, almost certainly to his native Denmark. Soren Lerby, his fellow Dane, is retiring and intends to become a manager. Wim Kieft, the Dutch international striker, will find a club somewhere in Southern Europe.

Vanenburg will stay with PSV, but whereas at the start of the season the management were calling him the team's new leader, they will now tell him to shut up and find his form.

The rows have affected Vanenburg's game so much that he was left out of the Dutch national squad for the recent friendly against the Soviet Union, even though several other players were unable to make the trip. "It's beginning to look like a disastrous season," Vanenburg admitted.

In March Bayern Munich eliminated PSV from the European Cup. More surprisingly, PSV are struggling to hold off Ajax in the league.

Ajax's hero is the 20-year-old Richard Witschge, a left-footed midfield player. Witschge started the season badly, and had a row with manager Leo Beenhakker, who called him lazy.

Witschge has recovered so well that he has found a place in the Dutch national team. He made his debut against Italy, and then was man of the match in the USSR, where Holland were unlucky to lose 2-1.

Now that Ruud Gullit looks likely to play in the World Cup, Holland should be missing only one member of the side which won the European Championships: that man is Arnold Muhren, and Witschge is the favourite to succeed him.

Favourite

The rest of Holland is hoping that PSV and not Ajax will win the championship. UEFA have banned Ajax from next season's European competitions after fans threw a metal bar at Austria Vienna's goalkeeper. If Ajax win the league the team who finishes second will not be able to replace them in the European Cup. If PSV win, and Ajax qualify for the UEFA Cup, then another club can take Ajax's place in the competition. In other words, if the championship goes to Amsterdam, that will cost Holland a place in Europe.

That would be particularly unfortunate this season, as a lot of clubs are pressing for a place in the UEFA Cup. Roda Kerkrade, Vitesse Arnhem, Fortuna Sittard, Volendam, Twente Enschede and even tiny RKC Waalwijk are all hopeful.

At the bottom, all that can be said for certain is that Haarlem will be relegated. Haarlem, Ruud Gullit's first club, went in to the season with too many untried young players.

One club has already achieved promotion to the premier division: SVV Schiedam took the lead in the first division from the very start of the season and clinched the championship long before the end. Two years ago the club was all but bankrupt, but John Van Dijk, a millionaire car salesman, turned them around.

Van Dijk did some of his best deals with neighbouring Feyenoord Rotterdam. Feyenoord, long famed for their ridiculous transfer policy, rejected players like Jerry Simons, Frank Roosa, Ton Breetveld and Keje Molenaar. They have been immensely valuable to SVV. However, the "Feyenoord rejects" most valuable to SVV are Van Dijk himself and his general manager Wim Jansen. Van Dijk has supported Feyenoord since he was a boy, and when he became rich he put money in to the club, but he walked out after a row. His first step at SVV was to hire Jansen.

Jansen had had a glorious career at Feyenoord's midfield, and had played in two World Cup finals. When he retired he became youth coach at Feyenoord, but after a couple of seasons he was asked to leave. Jansen, who is devoted to football, has watched hundreds or youth and professional footballers all over Holland, and he knows better than anyone where to find the best bargains.

The names in SVV's line up testify to his worth.

TURKEY BY HASAN CEMALI

Schumacher hits out

Former West German international 'keeper Toni Schumacher recently broke a club rule by making a public announcement on behalf of his fellow Fenerbahce players.

In an angry statement he said: "Untimely announcements by the club management that our manager Todor Veselinovis is no longer wanted and that seven players will be replaced causes tension as reflected by the team's erratic performances.

Injuries

"Veselinovic has been unable to put out his best side each week because of injuries to the top players like Nielsen, Ridvan and Turan who have not received adequate treatment."

Schumacher was fined two million lira for his outburst.

Gordon Milne passed the 100 mark for League games in charge of Besiktas recently, since his arrival in August 1987. In 102 games the club have won 66, drawn 25 and lost 11, scoring 214 goals and conceding just 67.

Milne has guided the club to two runners-up positions, while winning the '87-'88 President Cup, the '88-'89 Prime Minister's Cup and Sports Writer's Cup and the Turkish FA Cup.

SOVIET UNION BY BOB VAUGHAN

Personal problems have prevented Geta Ketashvili signing for Dynamo Kiev.

Soviet league is falling apart

THE Soviet league is disintegrating.

After the two Georgian clubs it is now Zalgiris Vilnius of Lithuania who have withdrawn from the championship. The title race is therefore only between 13 clubs.

Dynamo Moscow's match in Vilnius was 'put back' but whether it will now ever take place is unlikely. Best among those who are playing are Spartak Moscow who began with a 3-1 away victory at Ararat and a 5-4 home success over CSKA.

With the confusion caused by the reduction in teams and matches it is early days to predict championship contenders and the cup, too, is in disarray. The quarter finals have been rescrambled and see CSKA playing Third Division Krylia Sovetov, Lok Moscow v Torpedo, Dynamo Minsk v Dynamo Moscow and Metallist Kharkov v Dynamo Kiev.

With typical opportunism Kiev have signed up Tbilisi's Tsveiba and another Georgian international is keen to join Kiev and continue in the 'Sbornaja' but personal problems have so far prevented Geta Ketashvili signing.

GREECE BY LOU ECONOMOPOULOS

RIGGING SCANDAL

There has always been talk about fixed matches in the Greek First Division but a recent scandal even managed to make front page headlines during the General Election campaign in March.

Greek Soccer Federation (EPO) employee Costas Kiappe was accused of forging a letter addressed to referee Costas Dimitriadis but testified that he had done so under duress from an individual whose identity was revealed only to the judge. He also refused to name certain sports reporters allegedly involved in the rigging of soccer matches.

The letter had been sent by Kiappe, in the name of Dimitriadis, to FIFA in Zurich alleging that an organised ring often bribed referees to fix Greek matches.

Dimitriadis has denied signing the letter, which said the ring included a journalist, three referees, a Greek UEFA official and the owners of the country's top two soccer clubs.

"During a first round championship match between AEK and Olympiakos the presidents – Stratos Gidopoulos and Argyris Saliarelis – had agreed the match should be a tie. I was the referee of this game and they informed me in advance," the letter stated.

The match on October 23 did indeed end in a draw. The inquiry continues.

WEST GERMANY BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

Bundesliga bargains are on their way

WEST German football is bracing itself for a massive sell out of its biggest stars, even before the World Cup is completed.

And should the Germans enjoy a successful tournament than even more foreign buyers are expected to knock on the doors of the Bundesliga clubs, tempting the best players with lucrative signing-on fees and contracts.

Of course, the clubs too would cash in handsomely from any proposed deals, but clearly a further weakening of the available playing personnel can only have a detrimental effect on gates.

At least three major transfers are virtually agreed. Werder Bremen's international striker Karl Heinz Riedle (24, five caps) is certain to line up for Lazio next season – the fee at least £3 million.

The brilliant playmaker Thomas Hassler (23, nine caps) who was set to join Roma to link up with Rudi Voller and Thomas Berthold, is apparently switching to Juventus who have offered him more money and are willing to pay Koln more. If the £5 million deal goes through Hassler will partner in Turin another German, international defender Stefan Reuter from Bayern Munich who is 23 and has 15 caps. He has apparently already signed for Juve, though Bayern are now demanding £4 million, which is considerable for a defensive player.

Bayern's general manager Uli Hoeness says: "Juventus are tempting Reuter with a salary four times as much as we are offering net – of course we can't stop him going".

It speaks volumes for the comparison between West German and Italian football when even the biggest and wealthiest club in the Bundesliga is not in a position to stop top players leaving.

It's true that Bayern have themselves been combing the German market in the past luring stars such as Thon, Matthaus, Brehme, Kohler, Reuter and Grahammer (to mention just the most expensive ones) to Munich and selling some of them at horrendous fees, just as they did with their own discoveries Rummenigge and Breitner.

Part-exchange

Now apparently they are ready to transfer international midfielder Hans Dorfner (24, seven caps). Hoeness offered him to Roma for £2.3 million, or £1.2 million with Thomas Berthold in part-exchange. Dorfner is also reported to be negotiating with a French club.

Bayern's main ambition is to regain the European Cup. Team manager Jupp Heynckes says: "We've got to have some peace and patience. We should stick with the same players for over two, three years, because we have faith in them."

But Hoeness sees it differently. His philosophy is to present new faces. And he has a major say in who should be engaged. He wanted for example Mark Hughes against the wishes of Heynckes – but even the fiery Welshman could not displace Roland Wohlfarth. Now the Scot Alan McInally and the Yugoslav Radmilo Mihajlovic are under fire and Hoeness is already searching for new strikers.

Money should be available for – apart from the sales of players – Bayern made a packet from the European Cup ties against PSV Eindhoven and Milan. For the latter a capacity crowd of 68,000, plus sponsorship and television fees brought in at least £13 million. The state ARD TV channel alone paid £500,000 for transmission rights, but will have recouped some of it from the 24 foreign stations which broadcast the tie all over Europe.

For next season Bayern have already engaged the attacking midfielder Michael Sternkopf, just 20, from Karlsruhe. They have to sell him because in 12 months time, when the youngster's contract expires, they could only hope to get £750,000 for him. Now he might fetch double that.

Koln are thinking of replacing Hassler with Ivan Hasek (26), 40 times capped schemer and captain of Czechoslovakia from Sparta Prague and reigning 'Footballer of the Year'.

The Cup final in Berlin on May 19, between Werder Bremen and Kaisers Cautern will be watched by a full house of 76,000.

Thomas Haessler

Stefan Reuter

HUNGARY BY BRIAN O'SULLIVAN

BAD START FOR PECS

JOZSEF DZURJAK, previously out of favour, scored twice as Ferencvaros, with a 3-0 home win, handed Pecs MSC only their second league defeat of the season when the Hungarian championship resumed.

This result, and the more surprising 5-1 home win by Csepel, the bottom team, over Tatabanya, was overshadowed by the return home from Finland of Gyorgy Mezey in a shocked state.

The former national team manager will manage Videoton, the former UEFA Cup finalists, until the end of the season, as replacement for Gabor Kaszas who was killed in a car accident, near Kecskemet, south of Budapest.

Kaszas, 42, was the only person in the car which was in collision with a lorry. He leaves a wife, Vera, and three sons, as well as a gap in the football scene because he was a possible national manager of the future.

His family will benefit from a match between Kalman Meszoly's national selection and a team of former Videoton stars – including Ferenc Mezsaros, now managing Vasas, and Tibor Nyilasi, in Budapest.

Vidi began the spring season with a 1-1 draw in Szekesfehervar against Vasas but missing from their line-up was Tamas Petres, the leading scorer last season, who may be moved to Veszprem.

SWEDEN BY PENTTI HIETANEN

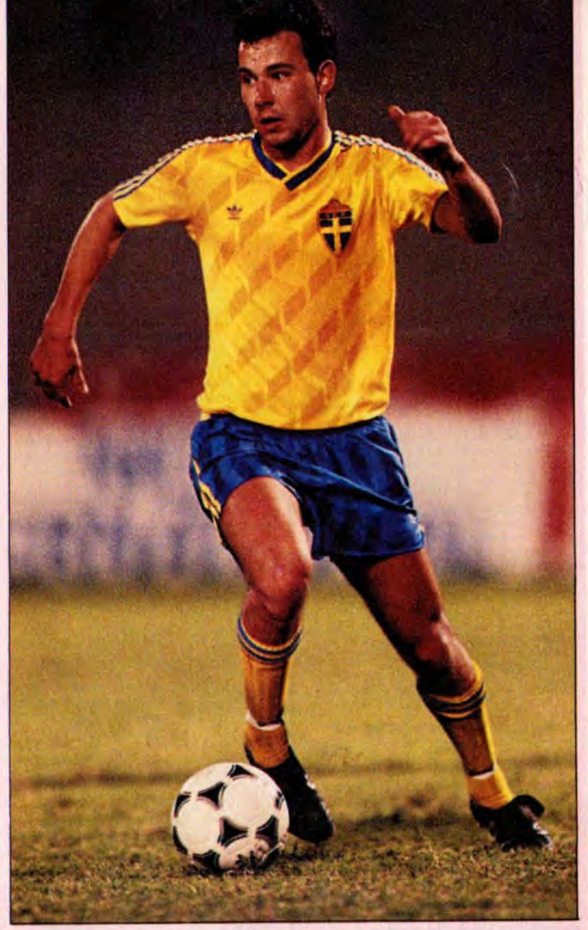
Rehn happy to be home

STEFAN REHN'S venture into English league soccer with Everton ended after only half a year. The 23-year-old midfield star is now back home with IFK Gothenburg.

Rehn says he enjoyed his stay at Goodison but did not get a fair crack of the whip from manager Colin Harvey. He said: "Mr Harvey did not show any faith in me. He tried to turn me into a defensive player, although I see myself as an attacking midfielder."

To prove his point Rehn did well for Olle Nordin's national team which drew 0-0 with Belgium.

However, the lack of firepower must worry coach Nordin as the celebrated Mats Magnusson (Benfica) and Stefan Pettersson (Ajax Amsterdam) once again drew a blank. Magnusson, a Golden Boot candidate with Benfica, was substituted by Johnny Ekstrom, while Pettersson missed a sitter.



DENMARK BY JIM HOLDEN

MOLLER NIELSEN GETS THE JOB

DENMARK finally appointed Richard Moller Nielsen as their new international team manager after a farcical weekend of interviews with leading candidates.

Arie Haan was the media's favourite to take the post, but the DBU passed him over and a couple of weeks later he was sacked by his club Stuttgart.

Another manager of a Bundesliga club, Horst Wohlers of Bayer Uerdingen, was offered the job and accepted it. Wohlers was a surprise choice, but the DBU obviously felt they had spotted the same potential they saw in former boss Sepp Piontek.

But 24 hours after Wohlers's appointment was announced, he was no longer an international manager. His club Uerdingen refused to free him for a contract running until the summer of 1991.

So the DBU found themselves in the embarrassing position of giving the job to their second choice, Moller Nielsen, the man the departing Piontek had groomed for the job in recent years.

He is known as 'Ricardo' in the Danish media and is widely respected for his tactical acumen and work with the Under 21 and Olympic sides. Although not an extrovert he has a wicked sense of humour and is a popular choice.

His promising playing career was cut short after only two international appearances in the early 60s because of a serious cartilage injury. Now aged 52, he was manager of OB Odense for 16 seasons, twice winning the Danish title.

He was then taken on as number two in the Danish set-up by Piontek, who strongly recommended him as a successor.

Moller Nielsen's first match in charge will be the visit to England this month (May) after Piontek said farewell with a home match against the nation he is taking over as international manager – Turkey.

The details of the agreement between Brondby and Bayer Uerdingen have been kept a close secret, intensifying the mystery over the whole strange affair.

The Danish league started in April with Morten Olsen making an average debut as a manger with his side Brondby drawing at home to Naestved. The former champions strengthened their squad on the eve of the season with the surprise signing of international John Faxe Jensen from Hamburg SV.

Former Brondby boss, Ebbe Skovdahl, had a better beginning at Vejle, where his new side beat promoted KB 2-0. That was without Preben Elkjaer, who scored four goals in a reserve match to prove he is close to full fitness again.

Other internationals who have returned to give the Danish league a boost this season are Klaus Berggreen at Lyngby, Soren Busk at Herfolge, and Ivan Nielsen at Fremad Amager.

Super-league

This is the last season with a 14-team first division before radical changes are introduced in 1991 with a 10-club super-league designed to further improve standards and crowds. With plans well advanced for new super stadia in Copenhagen, Odense, Brondby and Aalborg, these are exciting times for the domestic game.

It will be Moller Nielsen's most important task to ensure that the international side whose success has been the driving force for change in Danish soccer, continues to flourish in the 1990s as it did in the 1980s. Piontek's act is a tough one to follow, but in Ricardo the Danes have a tough, competitive new boss.

New Danish manager Moller Nielsen coaches Steffansen and Jensen.

Top scorer Gerhard Rodax on target against Spain.

AUSTRIA BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

Austrians reign in Spain

AUSTRIA'S World Cup hopes received a tremendous boost when the national side beat Spain 3-2 away in Malaga.

After trailing 2-0 at half time, Josef Hickersberger's charges took over the initiative and overran the bemused hosts thanks to goals from Hortnagle, Polster (who plays in Spain for Seville) and Rodax.

Hickersberger said: "This was our best performance since I've been manager."

Rarely, could there have been two such contrasting halves of a match. Before the break Spain looked world class – afterwards it was the Austrians who earned all the superlatives.

Hickersberger substituted four players at the interval and brought in the league's top scorer Gerhard Rodax. The team was unrecognisable. Polster and Rodax have in their respective leagues, totalled 59 goals so far this season.

In the championship the talk was of the 181th Viennese derby between Rapid and FK Austria which brought a feast of goals. The Rapidler won 6-3. Manager Hans Krankl said: "We are physically and technically the best team in Austria".

His rival, FK Austria's coach Erich Hof, said: "Not even a junior team would have let in such cheap goals as we did today".

Meanwhile title holders Tirol beat the bottom club First Vienna 2-0, despite losing striker Peter Pacult after 20 minutes – sent off for retaliation. He was one of three Tirol players shown the red card in successive home matches!

FINLAND BY PENTTI HIETANEN

MARTTI KUUSELA, the former Finnish national team manager, has returned to Finland from his spell in Denmark. Kuusela is the new coach of HJK Helsinki, the club he left in 1981.

He has already raised his voice to criticise the lack of proper winter training facilities in the Helsinki area. Kuusela says: "It is a crying shame that the capital of the country does not have a decent full-length indoor playing arena, when places like Lahti and Turku do. The spokesmen for football in Helsinki are either too nice, afraid of campaigning for a justifiable cause, or they just don't care."

Kuusela has been busy signing new players for HJK, including Finnish internationals Jari Europaeus and Pasi Tauriainen, both from Rovaniemi.

However, the career of Petri Tiainen, rated as one of Finland's best-ever prospects, is in jeopardy after a serious injury to his left knee. It could not have come at a worse time as the HJK star had just celebrated his return to the national team with a headed goal in the 1-1 draw with the United Arab Emirates.

EURO CUPS ROUND-UP

QUARTER-FINALS

CHAMPIONS' CUP

Quarter-finals, second legs (March 21)
Milan 2 (Marco Van Basten 94, Marco Simone 116)
Mechelen 0
HT: 0-0. 90min: 0-0. **Att:** 65,000. **Ref:** Roethlisberger (Swz).
Milan 2-0 on agg

Milan: G Galli - Tassotti, Maldini, Ancelotti (Simone 70), F Galli, Baresi, *Donadoni, Rijkaard, Van Basten, Evani (Colombo 46), Massaro. *Donadoni sent off, 115min.

Mechelen: Preud'homme - Sanders, *Clijsters, Rutjes, Deferm, Albert, Bruno Versavel, De Wilde (Patrick Versavel 75), Bosman (Severeyns 107), Emmers, Wilmots. *Clijsters sent off, min.

Defending title-holders Milan had to struggle before finding a way through as Mechelen eventually ran out of steam. Mechelen made the Italians work hard although they barely tested Galli in the Milan goal throughout the two hours of play. Roberto Donadoni was Milan's outstanding player but was sadly sent off five minutes from the end for retaliation against Deferm. That was the second expulsion of the night, Mechelen stalwart Leo Clijsters having been expelled for a second yellow card. At the time Milan led 1-0 thanks to a goal from Marco Van Basten after Tassotti had chased down a penetrating pass from Rijkaard. In the second half of extra time Simone ran through the Mechelen defence for a solo second.

PSV Eindhoven 0
Bayern Munich 1 (Klaus Augenthaler 89)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Kohl (Aus)
Bayern 3-1 on agg

PSV: Van Breukelen - Gerets, I Nielsen (De Jong 67), Valckx, Heintze - Lerby, Van Aerle, Vanenburg - Povlsen, Kieft, Boerebach (Ellerman 77).

Bayern: Aumann - Grahammer, Pflugler, Kohler, Augenthaler, Dorfner (Bender 65), Kogl, Reuter, Wohlfarth, Strunz, McInally (Flick 65).

PSV appeared to be losing their touch all round. In the Dutch championship they have been dropping points, as if desperately trying to slip from league leadership. Now, in Europe, they missed what appeared a straightforward chance of semi-final progress. Bayern controlled most of the match. They might have gone ahead in the 32nd minute when Stefan Reuter - closely linked with Juventus - was narrowly off target after a run by Wohlfarth. In the second half it took a Valckx foul after two minutes to halt Wohlfarth then substitute Bender saw a shot scrape the paint off a PSV goalpost. Heintze nearly put through his own goal before Bayern sealed a professionally disciplined display in the last minute - veteran sweeper Augenthaler scoring after a free kick on the edge of the PSV penalty box.

Marseille 3 (Chris Waddle 25, Jean-Pierre Papin 28, Franck Sauzee 72)
CFKA Sredets 1 (Urukov 84)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Nemeth (Hun)
Marseille 4-1 on agg

Marseille: Huard - Amoros, Mura, Sauzee, Mozer, Di Meco (Thys 74), Germain, Tigana (Deschamps 73), Francescoli, Papin, Waddle.
CFKA: Valov (Apostolov 74) - Dimitrov, Urukov, Mladenov (Bakalov 83), Ivanov, Yanchev, Georgiev, Vitanov, Donev, Stoichkov, Kostadinov.

Marseille found it easy to dispose of the best team in Bulgaria. Qualification was never in doubt - particularly after a spell of two goals in three minutes midway through the first half. Waddle rifled home the first from a free kick then skipper Papin snapped up the second, flicking home a Tigana cross. Two years earlier Marseille failed in the semi-finals of the Cup-winners' Cup (against Ajax), but this time they were determined there should be no slip-ups. First Sauzee crashed a 25-metre drive past Huard, then Urukov pulled back a consolation for CFKA. In the 86th minute Marseille keeper Huard was hurt in a collision with defender Mura and Papin, versatilte as ever, went in goal himself.

Dnepr 0
Benfica 3 (Lima 55, 60, Ricardo 86)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Blankenstein (Hol)
Benfica 4-0 on agg

Dnepr: Gorodov - Yudin, Gerashenko, Sidelnikov, Tishenko, Kudritski, Bagmut, Benko, Yarovenko (Kulish 46), Zhidkov (Plotnikov 46), Chervony.

Benfica: Silvino - Jose Carlos, Ricardo, Veloso, Aldair, Thern, Vitor Paneira, Ernani, Lima (Diamantino 85), Valdo (Pacheco 87), Magnusson.

Benfica reached the Champions' Cup semi-finals for the eighth time by taking the wind out of Soviet sails soon after half-time. Dnepr, lacking experience because of injuries, transfers and suspensions, tried hard to pull back their first-leg single-goal deficit in the first half. Benfica held out firmly and hit Dnepr twice on the break early in the second half through striker Adesvaldo Lima. Brazil defender Ricardo, in the Brazilian squad for next week's friendly against England at Wembley, scored goal No 3 with one of the most spectacular European goals of the night. Before the game players and crowd observed one minute's silence in tribute to Lev Yashin, who had died early that day.

CUP-WINNERS' CUP

Quarter-finals, second legs (March 21 unless stated)
Grasshoppers 1 (Wyss 69)
Sampdoria 2 (Cerezo 44, Lombardo 81)
Att: 18,000. **Ref:** Petrovic (Yug). Played on March 22
Sampdoria 4-1 on agg

Grasshoppers: Brunner - Meier, Koller (Nyfeler 68), Egli, Nemtsoudis, Gren, Andermatt, Bickel, Sutter, Kohr, Strudal (Wyss 65).

Sampdoria: Pagliuca - Peri, Mannini, Vierchowod, Carboni, Invernizzi (Salsano 86), Cerezo (Lanna 82), Katanec, Dossena, Lombardo, Mancini.

Sampdoria, beaten finalists last year, moved one step closer to revenge after easily disposing of the Swiss challenge. Sampdoria felt so confident they rested World Cup star Gianluca Vialli, who has been playing despite a foot problem.

Partizan 0
Dinamo Bucharest 2 (Lupescu 52, Florin Radicioiu 70)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Rosa dos Santos (Port). Played in Titograd.
Dinamo 4-1 on agg

Partizan: Omerovic - Stanojkovic, Miodrag Bajovic, Spasic, Petric, Djurdjevic (Milorad Bajovic 58), Mijatovic, Milojevic, Sladjan Scepovic (Goran Scepovic 59), Djurovski, Bogdanovic.

Dinamo: Stelea - Mihaescu (Mesaros 82), Klein, Rednic, Lupescu, Andone, Vaiscovici (Zamfir 76), Timofte, Radicioiu, Mateut, Lupu.

A highly disciplined defensive display by Dinamo brought Partizan's goal-laden charge through Europe to a meek halt. Partizan had lost their four previous games and the lack of confidence was evident throughout. Only twice - once at the start of each half - did they extend Rumanian keeper Stelea. For the rest of the time Djurovski ploughed a lone furrow up front with only his own defenders, Stanojkovic and Spasic, threatening to provide any sort of service of the ball. Dinamo went ahead through a superbly-struck 25-metre drive from skipper Lupescu after a free kick. They might have extended their lead immediately afterwards but Lupu badly wasted his penalty shot after a foul on Vaiscovici. It mattered little. With 20 minutes remaining Radicioiu, a speedy attacking handful who scored twice in the first leg, capitalised on a heading blunder by Petric to run clear and shoot home.

Admira Wacker 1 (Gerhard Rodax 65)
Anderlecht 1 (Luc Nilis 57)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Spirin (SU)
Anderlecht 3-1 on agg

Admira: Wolfgang Knaller - Oberholder, Bacher, Sperr (Gruber 65), Artner, Dotzl, Kuhbauer, Muller, Abfalterer, Rodax, Walter Knaller.

Anderlecht: De Wilde - Grun, Keshi, Van Tiggelen, Koeman (Vervoort 36), Andersen, Gudjohnsson (Marchoul 82), Jankovic, Degryse, Van der Linden, Nilis.

Anderlecht, twice winners of the Cup-winners' Cup, edged closer to a hat-trick. Van der Linden set up the all-important away goal for World Cup partner Nilis. Rodax, who had been rivalling Hugo Sanchez of Real Madrid in the European leagues' Golden Boot chase, was the inevitable scorer.

Monaco 0
Valladolid 0
Att: 13,500. **Ref:** Wiesel (WG)
Monaco 3-1 on pens: 0-0 agg after extra time

Monaco: Ettori - Valery, Puel, Petit, Mendy, Guerit, Ferratge (Toure 40), Dib, Weah, Diaz, Mege (Fofana 73).

Valladolid: Ravnic - Patri, Ayarza, Caminero, Moreno (Manolo 30), Lemos, Minguela, Moya, Hidalgo (Albi 78), Jankovic, Pena.

Monaco reached a European semi-final for the first time. But instead of collecting the easy win expected after their goalless draw in Spain, they needed a penalty shoot-out. Veteran keeper Jean-Luc Ettori was Monaco's hero. He saved spot kicks from Jankovic and Ayarza superbly. Moya missed a third Valladolid penalty, which aptly summed up the Spanish club's general failure in attack. Monaco had most of the play, with creative influence stemming from midfielder Marcel Dib. Even when Monaco did break through, their forwards were profligate. Ramon Diaz wasted two excellent openings and Georges Weah, the African Footballer of the Year, shot over the bar twice when he found himself in space.

U E F A CUP

Quarter-finals, second legs (March 21 unless stated)
Auxerre 0
Fiorentina 1 (Nappi 79)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000 (in Perugia). **Ref:** Smith (Scot)
Fiorentina 2-0 on agg

Auxerre: Martini - Catalano, Mazzolini, *Boli, Barreiro, Matysik, Cocard, Guerreiro, Kovacs (Soler 72), Scifo, Vahirua (Otokore 50). *Boli sent off, 89min.

Fiorentina: Landucci - Pioli, Dell'Oglio, *Iachini, Pin, Battistini (Faccenda 29; Malusci 56), Nappi, Dunga, Buso, Baggio, Kubik. *Iachini sent off, 83min.

Fiorentina could become the first club to win a European trophy without having played any games at home. The reason is the redevelopment work being carried out in the Stadio Comunale in Florence for the World Cup. Fiorentina have played all their Euro ties in Perugia. They reached a European semi-final for the fourth time thanks to a late goal for Nappi, created by Czechoslovak import Lubos Kubik. It was a goal which kept Fiorentina coach Bruno Giorgi in his job, for at least the rest of the week.

Juventus 1 (Galia 35)
Hamburg 2 (Furtok 72, Merkle 79)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 42,977. **Ref:** Vautrot (Fr)
Juventus 3-2 on agg

Juventus: Tacconi - Bruno (Avallone 39), De Agostini, Galia, Brio, D Bonetti, Aleinikov, Rui Barros (Casiraghi 77), Zavarov, Marocchi, Schillaci.

Hamburg: Golz - Moser (Sporl 48), Schroder (Marin 65), Kober, Beiersdorfer, Van Heesen. Ballwanz. Jusufi, Furtok, Eck, Merkle.

Hamburg struck two goals in the last 18 minutes to give Juventus a nasty shock. But in the end the rocky Italians clung on - grateful that Hamburg's Brazilian forward, Nando, who had been in sharp-shooting form in the Bundesliga, had signed too late to be eligible for the tie.

Werder Bremen 0
FC Liege 2 (De Sart 25, Milosevic 80pen)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Longhi (It)
Bremen 4-3 on agg

Bremen: Reck - Bockenfeld (Schaaf 70), Otten, Bratseth, Sauer, Borowka, Walter, Votava, Riedle, Neubarth, Rufer.

Liege: Munaron (Gustin 46) - Wegria (Giusto 70), De Sart, Machiels, Houben, Waseige, Milosevic, Quain, Boffin, Ernes, Nijskens.

Werder reached the semi-finals amid jeers from their own fans at the way they so nearly blew the home leg of this quarter-final. Liege thought they had luck on their side when Milosevic scored a second goal after Reck's initial penalty save. But the Belgians could not quite find the decisive last strike.

Antwerp 0
Koln 0
Att: 20,000. **Ref:** Soriano Aladren (Sp)
Koln 2-0 on agg

Antwerp: Svilar (De Coninck 46) - Kiekens (Van Veirdeghem 70), Broeckaert, Quaranta, Smidts, Lehnhoff, Van Rooij, Schrooten, Czerniatynski, Claesen, Geilenkirchen.

Koln: Illgner - Higl (Dreesen 52), Gortz, Giske, Steiner, Jensen, Hassler, Rudy, Gotz, Littbarski, Janssen.

Antwerp attacked from start to finish but found West German World Cup keeper Bodo Illgner too formidable a barrier. Nico Claesen said: "We did everything but score." Koln might even have snatched victory. A 20th-minute breakaway saw Falko Gotz's shot cleared off the line by Rudy Smits.

SEMI-FINALS

CHAMPIONS' CUP

Semi-finals, first legs (April 4)
Marseille 2 (Franck Sauzee 13, Jean-Pierre Papin 44)
Benfica 1 (Adesvaldo Lima 10)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 41,000. **Ref:** Courtney (Eng)

Marseille: Castaneda - Amoros, Mozer, Sauzee, Di Meco (Vercruysse 58), Germain, Tigana, Deschamps, Francescoli, Papin, Waddle.

Benfica: Silvino - Jose Carlos, Ricardo, Veloso, Aldair, Thern (Diamantino 76), Vitor, Hernani, Adesualdo Lima (Pacheco 63), Valdo, Magnusson.

A row broke out after the match after the lack of doping checks with Benfica suggesting that Marseille had more going for them than ambition alone. Nevertheless, the Portuguese had obtained an excellent result. Marseille may have underestimated them, so intent were they on thinking ahead to a final against Milan. Benfica took a shock lead with a Lima header but France international defender Sauzee equalised after a Chris Waddle corner was relayed into the penalty box by Mozer and Papin. Skipper Papin himself scored what proved to be the winner after a lob through the Portuguese defence from Waddle. The England winger, who was outstanding, was unlucky in the 19th minute when his free kick struck the bar.

Milan 1 (Marco Van Basten 77pen)
Bayern Munich 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 65,000. **Ref:** Carlsson (Swe)

Milan: Galli - Tassotti, Maldini, Colombo (Stroppa 46), F Galli, Baresi, Simone (Borgonovo 70), Rijkaard, Van Basten, Evani, Massaro.

Bayern: Aumann - Reuter, Pflugler, Kohler, Augenthaler, Dorfner, Kogl, Flick, Bender (Thon 80), Strunz, McInally.

The weary pitch in San Siro badly let down Milan. Their technical skills were hampered by the bumps and ruts and all the cup-holders had to show for their night's work was a penalty by Van Basten after he had been held by Jurgen Kohler. Milan were under-strength, without injured Gullit and Ancelotti as well as the suspended Donadoni. Bayern goalkeeper Raimond Aumann made a couple of brave saves from Van Basten but he must have expected a harder night's work than he got. The closest shot-shy Bayern came to a goal was an Alan McInally header which flew the wrong side of a post after 80 minutes.

CUP-WINNERS' CUP

Semi-finals, first legs (April 4 unless stated)
Anderlecht 1 (Luc Nilis 65)
Dinamo Bucharest 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 16,000. **Ref:** Schmidhuber (WG)

Anderlecht: De Wilde - Grun, Keshi (Marchoul 65), Andersen, Gudjohnsen, Vervoort, Oliveira, Degryse, Van der Linden, Nilis.

Dinamo: Stelea - Dobos, *Klein, Rednic, Timiofte, Andone, Vaiscovici (Zamfir 87), Sabau, Raducioiu, Mateut, Lupu. *Klein sent off, 66min.

A second-half goal from World Cup striker Nilis earned Anderlecht the narrowest of victories. But any sort of victory was good news for their fans after the weekend embarrassment of a 3-0 home defeat by Mechelen. The match appeared deadlocked until Dinamo keeper Stelea failed to hold a 25-yard drive from Marc Degryse and Nilis shot home. One minute later Dinamo's veteran international, Michael Klein, was sent off for elbowing Oliveira in the face. But Anderlecht could not take advantage. Twice they came close, but first Stelea punched out a Van der Linden header then Oliveira's 88th-minute shot hit a post.

Monaco 2 (Georges Weah 43, Fabrice Mege 79)
Sampdoria 2 (Gianluca Vialli 74pen and 78)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Kirschen (EG)

Monaco: Ettori - Valery, Sonor, Petit, Mendy, Puel, Ferratge (Mege 77), Dib, Weah, Diaz, Toure (Fofana 78).

Sampdoria: Pagliuca - Mannini, Invernizzi, Pari, Vierchowod, Victor (Salsano 70), Lombardo, Katanec, Vialli, Mancini, Dossena.

Monaco's dream of a first-ever European final was interrupted by the opportunism of Italian World Cup star Gianluca Vialli. All Italy will be looking for Vialli to hit form in the World Cup finals the way he did in the last 16 minutes in Monte Carlo. Monaco, without long-term injury victims Hoddle and Hateley, opened the scoring just before the interval when Weah, the African Footballer of the Year, headed home a Ramon Diaz corner. After some frantic goalmouth action at both ends, the Italians hit back in the 74th minute. Vialli was tripped by Senegal international Roger Mendy, and converted the penalty. Four minutes later Vialli headed home a short cross from Mannini after a shot had been blocked. Monaco instantly responded with a fortunate goal as a shot from Mege was deflected beyond Pagliuca off Diaz's back.

U E F A CUP

Semi-finals, first legs (April 4 unless stated)
Werder Bremen 1 (Landucci og 89)
Fiorentina 1 (Marco Nappi 79)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 28,000. **Ref:** Mikkelsen (Den)

Bremen: Reck - Bratseth, Votava, Borowka, Bockenfeld (Hermann 46), Wolter, Eilts, Otten, Neubarth, Rufer, Riedle.

Fiorentina: Landucci - Pioli, Dell'Oglio, Malosci, Pin, Battistini, Nappi (Antinori 85), Kubik, Baggio, Di Chiara, Buso (Caligari 80).

Fiorentina should have been pleased to earn an away draw plus an away goal. Instead they flew home disappointed. Czechoslovak World Cup midfielder Lubos Kubik will miss the second leg through suspension (after collecting his second yellow card of the competition) and a silly mistake by keeper Marco Landucci presented Bremen with a last-minute equaliser. Fiorentina, under caretaker coach Francesco Graziani after last week's dismissal of Bruno Georgi, had gone ahead in the 79th minute on a solo effort from Nappi.

Juventus 3 (Rui Barros 21, Pierluigi Casiraghi 44, Giancarlo Marocchi 53)
Koln 2 (Armin Goetz 79, Ralf Sturm 89)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 42,000. **Ref:** Kohl (Aus)

Juventus: Tacconi - Galia, De Agostini, Alessio, Bonetti, Tricella, Aleinikov, Rui Barros (Brio 85), Casiraghi, Marocchi, Schillaci.

Koln: Illgner - Higl, Dresen (Ordenewitz 59), Greiner, Jensen, Gielchen, Hassler, Rudy (Goetz 75), Littbarski, Sturm. Janssen.

Juventus, winners of the UEFA Cup in 1977, nearly let this match slip away from them completely. After leading 3-0 soon after the interval they had to be satisfied in the end with a one-goal advantage. Rui Barros opened the scoring with a fine solo effort and Casiraghi - just cleared for action after a broken nose - grabbed another almost on half-time with a delicate header. Marocchi increased Juve's lead with a header of his own. The cross came from Salvatore Schillaci, who had made his debut for Italy last weekend in the 1-0 win over Switzerland. Juve then relaxed; and Koln hit back. Pierre Littbarski opened the way for Goetz to pull one back. Then the West German World Cup star provided the free kick from which Sturm headed home. But Juventus were happy to come away knowing that Littbarski would miss the second leg, after collecting a second yellow card.

Vata Garcia scores for Benfica against Marseille in the Champions' Cup semi-final.

CHAMPIONS' CUP

Semi-finals, second legs (April 18)
Bayern Munich 2 (Thomas Strunz 60, Alan McInally 107)
Milan 1 (Stefano Borgonovo 101)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 73,000. **Ref:** Soriano Aladren (Sp)
Milan on away goals: 2-2 agg

Bayern: Aumann - Grahammer, Pflugler, Kohler, Augenthaler, Dorfner, Kogl (bender 97), Reuter, Wohlfarth, Thon (McInally 87), Strunz.

Milan: Galli - Tasotti, Maldini, Colombo, Costacurta, Baresi (F Galli 103), Stroppa (Borgonovo 68), Rijkaard, Van Basten, Evani, Massaro.

Milan's victory, in extra time in the rain, thrilled coach Arrigo Sacchi - especially considering the absences of injured Gullit and suspended Donadoni. Sacchi said: "To say I am happy is a massive understatement. This is the third or fourth time we have won through after extra time and that shows great physical and mental strengths." Bayern coach Jupp Heynckes acknowledged: "We lost to a superb team." Thomas Strunz levelled the tie in the 60th minute and Scottish striker Alan McInally put the West Germans back in the hunt with a goal in the 107th minute. But inbetween, tired defending and lack of concentration by Bayern let in substitute Borgonovo for a 'free' chip over Aumann to settle the issue. Milan, who had looked the more composed and created more danger early on, deserved their victory.

Benfica 1 (Vata Garcia 84)
Marseille 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 110,000. **Ref:** Van Langenhove (Bel)
Benfica on away goals: 2-2 agg

Benfica: Silvino - Jose Carlos, Samuel, Veloso, Aldair, Thern, Victor, Vitor Paneira, Hernani, Lima, Valdo, Magnusson.

Marseille: Castaneda - Amoros, Sauzee, Mozer, Di Meco, Tigana, Deschamps, Germain, Papin, Francescoli, Waddle.

A late, controversial goal by Angolan striker Vata Garcua pushed Benfica into the final for the seventh time. Vata chested the ball home from close range after Magnusson flicked on a corner by Brazil midfielder Valdo. Television replays showed a hand contact, though whether this was from a Portuguese forward or French defender was not entirely certain. Previously Benfica had rarely looked like making progress, so scarcely did they threaten to break down an uncompromising French side which for once abandoned their normal attacking instincts - and paid a fatal price.

Leading scorers: 6 - Papin (Marseille), Romario (PSV). 5 - Magnusson, Vata Garcia (Benfica), Pacult (Tirol). 4 - Sauzee (Marseille), Van Basten (Milan), Lima, Ricardo (Benfica), Bosman (Mechelen), Ellerman (PSV), Stoichkov (CFKA), Sohn (Dnepr), Bilek (Sparta), Westerthaler (Tirol).

CUP-WINNERS' CUP

Semi-finals, second legs (April 18)
Dinamo Bucharest 0
Anderlecht 1 (Marc Van der Linden 59)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Blankensten (Hol)
Anderlecht 2-0 on agg

Dinamo: Stelea - Mihaescu (Dobos 75), Andone, Rednic, Timofte, Sabau, Lupescu, Mateut, Lupu, Raducioiu, Vaiscovici (Zamfir 67).

Anderlecht: De Wilde - Grun (De Oliveira 12), Marchoul, Koiman, Andersen, Gudjohsen, Musonda, Vervoort, Van der Linden, Degryse, Nilis.

Dinamo coach Mircea Lucescu fiercely attacked Dutch referee John Blankenstein after his side missed out on what would have been their first European final. Lucescu said: "It is ridiculous that a Dutch referee should be sent at this stage of the competition for a match involving a team trained by a Dutch coach and with Dutch players in it. A perfectly valid goal for us in the 39th minute was not given, even though the ball was hooked back from inside the goal-line." Marc Van der Linden scored the only goal which counted. Anderlecht coach Aad de Mos said: "We were lucky in the first half that Dinamo used up so much energy and then, when they didn't score a goal, lost their tempers."

Sampdoria 2 (Pietro Vierchowod 8, Attilio Lombardo 11)
Monaco 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 39,000. **Ref:** Rosa dos Santos Sport)
Sampdoria win 4-2 on agg

Sampdoria: Pagliuca - Lanna, Carboni, Pari, Vierchowod, Invernizzi, Lombardo, Katanec, Vialli, Mancini, Dossena.

Monaco: Ettori - Valery, Sonor, Petit, Mendy, Blondeau (Fofana 46), Ferratge, Dib, Weah, Diaz, Mege (Clement 61).

Two goals in the first 11 minutes took Samp into their second successive Cup-winners' final. The Italians dominated the first half, with Roberto Mancini excelling and went ahead in the eighth minute. Monaco keeper Ettori turned away a Mancini drive for a corner which Katanec nodded down for stopper Vierchowod to stab home. Attilio Lombardo effectively killed off French hopes three minutes later when he converted a cross from fullback Carboni on the left. Monaco battled back bravely in the last halfhour. African Footballer of the Year Weah had a goal disallowed for offside and Emmanuel Petit hit a post.

Top scorers: 5 - Vialli (Sampdoria). 4 - Mateut, Raducioiu (Dinamo Bucharest), Degryse, Nilis, Van der Linden (Anderlecht), Djurovski (Partizan), Dziekanowski (Celtic).

U E F A CUP

Semi-finals, second legs
Fiorentina 0
Werder Bremen 0
Att: 40,000 (in Perugia, April 17). **Ref:** Biguet (Fr)
Fiorentina on away goals: 1-1 agg

Fiorentina: Landucci - Pioli (Volpecina 9), Dell'Oglio, Malusci, Pin, Battistini, Nappi, Dunga, Buso (Caligari 89), Baggio, Di Chiara.

Bremen: Reck - Wolter, Otten, Bratseth, Schaaf (Hermann 71), Borowka (Bode 78), Eilts, Votava, Riedle, Neubarth, Rufer.

Fiorentina reached the UEFA Cup final for the first time but troubles kept on piling up for the injurv-hit Italians. Defender Stefano Pioli was ruled out for seven months after tearing right knee ligaments in an eighth-minute clash which earned a yellow card for Uli Borowka. Then Fiorentina appeared certain to face UEFA's wrath for serious crowd incidents. The most serious occurred just before the start of the second half when Bremen keeper Oliver Reck was struck by a drinks can thrown from the crowd behind his goal. Reck was not badly hurt and French referee Biguet eventually started the second half 10 minutes late. Other incidents included smoke flares set off by the fans at the beginning and end of the match and an invasion of the pitch shortly before the final whistle. The match was marred from the outset by rough play which continued intermittently throughout the match. Apart from Borowka there were also yellow cards for Otten, Battistini and Buso. In fact, there were more yellow cards than serious attempts on goal.

Koln 0
Juventus 0
Att: 55,000 (April 18). **Ref:** Petrovic (Yug)
Juventus 3-2 on agg

Koln: Illgner - Steiner, Greiner, Giske, Hassler, Janssen, Rudy, Gielchen (Rahn 75), Gortz (Gotz 46), Sturm, Ordenewitz.

Juventus: Tacconi - Bonetti, Napoli, Bruno, De Agostini, Alessio, Aleinikov, Galia, Rui Barros, Casiraghi, Schillaci (Brio 89).

Stefano Tacconi, Italy's World Cup reserve keeper, made a string of fine saves in the final 15 minutes to deny Koln a goal and help Juventus into the final of the UEFA Cup they won back in 1977. Koln badly missed suspended Littbarski. It was night of mixed emotions for Koln midfielder Thomas Massler. After the match Juventus confirmed that he will join them during the summer for a West German transfer record of £5.5million.

Top scorers: 6 - Gotz (Koln), Riedle (Bremen). 5 - Scifo (Auxerre). 4 - Rufer (Bremen), Schillaci (Juventus), Claesen (Antwerp), Ernes (Liege), Fenoll (Valencia).

DIARY

WORLD SOCCER'S GLOBAL NEWS SERVICE CONDUCTED BY KEIR RADNEDGE

OBITUARY

PETER JONES: BBC radio's popular and experienced soccer commentator died aged 60 on Monday, April 2. He had been taken ill while covering the University Boat Race. As well as commentating on the top events in the soccer calendar he was also highly praised for his work under the most harrowing of circumstances at Heysel and Hillsborough. He leaves a widow and two sons.

JOAO PEDRO: Left back with Brazilian club Sport Recife, dies at 23 after suffering a heart attack in the 70th minute of a Pernambuco state league match against Estudiantes.

PETER DOHERTY, the former Northern Ireland manager died in hospital in Blackpool, aged 76. As manager, he took Northern Ireland to their first-ever World Cup finals in 1958. As a player, the Londonderry-born inside forward was capped 18 times by his country and scored at Wembley for Derby County in their 1946 FA Cup final win over Charlton. He was also in Manchester City's 1936/37 First Division championship winning side and his other clubs were Glentoran, Blackburn, Huddersfield and Doncaster. He managed Bristol City at club level.

FRIDAY, MARCH 16

ACTION: Algeria beat Nigeria 1-0 in the final of the African Nations' championship in Algiers.

ENGLAND: Liverpool take Israel striker Ronny Rosenthal on trial from Standard Liege. If he impresses, then the asking price is £500,000. Luton had been hoping to use Rosenthal until Liverpool stepped in.

GREECE: The Greek federation is told by FIFA that it must investigate and sort out itself the row over allegations of first division match fixing.

ITALY: Former Italy star Gigi Riva, who made his name playing for Sardinian club Cagliari, says he fears World Cup violence "which could turn the streets of my home into no-go areas."

SCOTLAND: The SFA scrap plans for a pre-World Cup excursion to Portugal and settle for Malta instead. They will fly out on May 24 and return on June 1, playing Malta in a B international and in a match behind closed doors.

SOVIET UNION: Top Lithuanian team Zhalgiris Vilnius withdraw from the Soviet first division as the political crisis extends into football. But FIFA say they plan no immediate action in the developing row over whether the game is being run by the old Soviet federation or the new Union of Football Leagues. FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter denies reports that the Soviet Union's place in the World Cup finals may be in jeopardy.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA decides to set up a study group to consider the suggestions of president Joao Havelange that World Cup matches should be split into four quarter of 25 minutes each for the benefit of television.

SATURDAY, MARCH 17

ACTION: In Austria Tirol beat Admira 2-0 to stay two points clear of FK Austria ... in East Germany Dresden are held 1-1 away to Wismut Aue but stay two points clear of Magdeburg ... in France Jean-Pierre Papin scores a hat-trick in Marseille's 3-0 demolition of Toulon ... but in Holland PSV are held 1-1 at home by Twente – and earn a point even then only thanks to an injury-time goal from Stan Valckx ... in Hungary Ujpest move four points clear of Ujpest thanks to a 4-1 win over Vasas ... in Spain a pitch invasion and cascade of missiles delays the second-half restart of the 1-1 draw between Bilbao and Real Madrid ... in West Germany Bayern Munich open up a four-point lead thanks to a 1-0 home win over Eintracht Frankfurt in yet another 'Match of the Season'. Thomas Strunz scores the decisive goal in the 58th minute in front of a capacity 73,000 attendance.

ITALY: Milan city officials announce that the La Scala orchestra will be star turns, courtesy of closed-circuit television, at the World Cup opening ceremony. The World Cup song will be performed by Gianna Nanini and Edoardo Bennato in a ceremony which will last only 30 minutes. Organising official Massimo Moratti says: "The fans want to see action, not choreography."

SPAIN: Struggling Cadiz engage Colin Addison as coach in succession to sacked David Vidal.

SUNDAY, MARCH 18

ACTION: Anderlecht beat Standard Liege 1-0 in Belgium to pull level with Brugge at the top of the table ... Ajax blow their chance to narrow the gap in Holland on PSV when they are held goalless away to Utrecht ... Milan suffer a major setback in their title challenge when they lose 3-1 'at home' to neighbours Inter. Fortunately Napoli lose as well, by 2-1 to Sampdoria. In hooligan violence, 16 fans are injured and six arrested after clashes during Roma's 1-0 win over derby rivals Lazio ... Benfica win 3-2 away to Portimonense but Porto maintain their progress towards the Portuguese title with a 4-1 home win over Maritimo ... Barcelona win 2-1 away to Logres but are still nine point behind Real Madrid with time and matches running out ... an upset in Turkey as Fenerbahce beat Boluspor 2-0 and overtake long-time leaders Besiktas (1-0 losers against Anakaragucu) at the top.

CHILE: The traditional pre-season tournaments opens under international gaze, since it is being used for experiments such as 'long-range penalties' (direct free kicks with a wall banned).

DENMARK: The Danish federation surprises everyone by naming Horst Wohlers, West German coach of Bundesliga side Bayer Uerdingen, as new national manager in succession to Sepp Piontek.

ENGLAND: Government plans are leaked out in the Sunday newspapers detailing a biggest-ever security operation of its type to try to prevent World Cup hooliganism.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Carlos Alberto Parreira is appointed national manager in succession to Bernard Blaut, who quit after the Gulf Cup disaster.

MONDAY, MARCH 19

DENMARK: The decision to appoint Horst Wohlers as national manager is attacked from all quarters – particularly in view of Uerdingen's statement that they have not been contacted by the Danes.

ENGLAND: The FA appoint Telemundi (UK), official licensing agents for the 1990 World Cup and 1991 World Rugby Cup, to market the FA Cup ... Brighton sign Nigeria striker Chukwenedum Uzokwe on trial from Westerlo of Belgium.

HOLLAND: A federation officials says a decision about the future of national manager Thys Libregts is expected later this week. Leo Beenhakker of Ajax is favourite to be installed as World Cup caretaker ... PSV's Brazilian star striker, Romario, says he expects to play again in six weeks after recovering from his broken leg.

ITALY: Diego Maradona's appeal against fines totalling £3,000, imposed by Napoli for twice missing training without excuse or notice, is dismissed by the Italian federation.

SCOTLAND: Andy Roxburgh drops Liverpool's Nicol and Gillespie from his squad to face Argentina because they missed the 'getting-to-know-you' trip to Italy the previous month.

SPAIN: National manager Luis Suarez extends his contract for a further four years.

SWITZERLAND: Servette sack veteran coach Peter Pazmandy and appoint Rudi Krol (dismissed earlier this year by Mechelen) instead.

TUESDAY, MARCH 20

ACTION: Hungary beat the United States 2-0 in Budapest ... Monaco and Valladolid draw 0-0 in a Cup-winners' Cup quarter-final return, and Monaco win 3-1 on penalties. In the UEFA Cup Antwerp and Koln draw 0-0 and the West Germans go through 2-0 on aggregate.

AUSTRIA: Manager Josef Hickersberger says he has no intention of recalling veteran defender Heribert Weber for the World Cup. The two fell out earlier this year following Weber's axing from the team before the qualifying decider against East Germany last autumn.

DENMARK: The federation does an about-turn after Horst Wohlers withdraws from the national team managership. This time they make the predicted appointment of Piontek's forme raide, Richard Moller-Nielsen, a 52-year-old former international who has been coaching the under-21 and Olympic teams.

GREECE: Costas Kiappe, the runaway soccer official, is formally charged by the Greek public prosecutor with forging a signature on a letter concerning match-fixing allegations. The letter had been purported to have been sent by the international referee Costas Dimitriadis.

HOLLAND: PSV midfielder Gerald Vanenburg is dropped from Holland's squad for the friendly visit to the Soviet Union. His place goes to new boy Marcel Peeper, of Twente Enschede ... from Italy Ruud Gullit sends a message that his knee has settled down and he believes he will be "in contention for the World Cup."

ITALY: Lazio 'fan' Isabella Di Giovanni, 21, becomes the first woman convicted of hooligan violence in Italy when she is sentenced to a 100-day suspended jail term for her part in incidents during the Lazio v Roma derby at the weekend. She is also banned from attending league matches for three years ... Italy manager Azeglio Vicini lists Argentina, Brazil and Holland as his World Cup favourites.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA dismisses suggestions that England's World Cup opponents should be flown in and out on the day of their first round matches so as to reduce the potential for hooligan trouble.

UNITED STATES: New York City and New Haven, Conneticut, announce plans to submit a joint application as a 1994 World Cup venue. New Haven is 80 miles from New York but the 70,000-capacity Yale Bowl could well be a serious contender to stage the Final.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21

ACTION: It's quarter-final, second leg night in Europe. In the Champions' Cup there are victories for Benfica, Bayern Munich, Milan and Marseille; in the Cup-winners' Cup for Anderlecht and Dinamo Bucharest; and in the UEFA Cup for Juventus, Fiorentina and Werder Bremen ... in Greek Cup semi-final action, Olympiakos beat old rivals Panathinaikos 2-1 and OFI and Apollom draw 0-0.

FRANCE: Marseille president Bernard Tapie agrees to release his internationals for the forthcoming international against Hungary – in contrast to the release refusal from Bordeaux president Claude Bez.

ITALY: The weekly suspension list includes Argentina's Pedro Troglio (Lazio), Alemao (Napoli) and Sotomayor (Verona).

SOVIET UNION: Lev Yashin, one of the all-time greats, dies in Moscow aged 60 (see Obituary in these pages last month).

THURSDAY, MARCH 22

ACTION: Sampdoria win 2-1 away to Grasshoppers to qualify for the semi-finals of the Cup-winners' Cup.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: World Cup striker Milan Luhovy is transferred from Dukla to Gijon of Spain.

Luis Fernandez.

FRANCE: Midfielder Luis Fernandez gains a shock recall to the France squad for the friendly against Hungary. It had been thought Fernandez had long since ruled himself out of contention following rows with his clubs and the federation ... Marseille learn that goalkeeper Gaetan Huard broke a leg in the Champions' Cup return against CFKA Sofia and will be out for the rest of the season.

ITALY: Diego Maradona is suddenly doubtful for Argentina's friendly against Scotland because of a promotional arrangement in Japan.

WEST GERMANY: Koln tell midfield star Thomas Hassler that, even though his contract does not expire until 1994, they will not stand in the way of his transfer to Roma or Juventus ... Hermann Neuberger, president of the German federation and also the FIFA World Cup organising committee, criticises the Italian World Cup organisers for "gross over-pricing" of tickets. First-round ticket prices range from £8 to £60.

FRIDAY, MARCH 23

ENGLAND: FA chief Bert Millichip says Sports Minister Colin Moynihan will approve an English return to European club events as long as hooligans are kept under control at the World Cup finals.

ITALY: Milan's luckless World Cup midfielder Carlo Ancelotti is ruled out for up to six weeks by a pulled muscle in his right thigh. He was injured in the Champions' Cup return against Mechelen.

SPAIN: Zaragoza midfielder Juan Senor is told by Italian specialists to rest for four months because of an irregular heart beat.

SWITZERLAND: The draw is made for the European club semi-finals. In the UEFA Cup, the winners of the Juventus v Koln tie will be home for the first leg of the final. UEFA says a new seeding system is likely to be introduced for next season's three competitions ... FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter tells managers at a World Cup preparatory meeting that referees are being told to crack down hard on dirty play. He also says that players will be disciplined (with a yellow card) for over-celebrating a goal. FIFA spokesman Guido Tognoni says steps will be taken in due course to move towards the creation of professional referees.

WEST GERMANY: Eintracht Frankfurt lose their last realistic hope of maintainng a title challenge as they crash 3-0 at home to Leverkusen. All the goals come from foreign internationals – Lesniak of Poland, Jorginho of Brazil and Thom of East Germany. In a decisive bottom-of-the-table game, Borussia Monchengladbach beat Homburg 3-1.

SATURDAY, MARCH 24

ACTION: Tirol score a vital win in Austria, beating Rapid 1-0 in Vienna ... Dresden's lead in East Germany is cut to one point after their shock 4-0 home defeat by Carl Zeiss Jena. More trouble in Dresden sees baton-wielding police break up fighting between rival fans after the game. Altogether there are 35 hooligan offence arrests at first division games ... Marseille lose 2-1 to Brest so Bordeaux, 3-0 winners of Paris SG, stretch their lead to three points ... hooligan trouble in Holland sees 36 Groningen 'fans' arrested after rampaging through a train taking them to the away game against Willem II. PSV beat MVV 1-0 with a Wim Kieft goal to stretch their lead at the top ... Barcelona slump to a depressing 2-0 home defeat at the hands of Atletico Madrid. Gary Lineker is in the crowd and is given a warm reception ... Bayern Munich have keeper Aumann to thank for preserving a goalless draw against Bochum.

HOLLAND: National manager Thys Libregts says he intends to see an injunction preventing the federation from dismissing him.

SWITZERLAND: World Cup managers end their two-day instruction course in World Cup arrangements at Regensdorf. FIFA spokesman Guido Tognoni says: "They have been informed about how everything will be organised, about travel plans, security and the like."

SUNDAY, MARCH 25

ACTION: Admira surprisingly thrash FK Austria 5-1 ... Sparta are surprisingly held 1-1 at home by Dukla Banska Bystrica, but remain five points clear of Internacional ... in Greece Olympiakos waste a chance to pull level at the top with Panathinaikos. While Panathiniakos go down 2-0 to Panserraikos, Olympiakos crash 4-1 away to PAOK ... Italy's outgoing champions Inter run upthe best win of the season by defeating Atalanta 7-2 ... Benfica beat Sporting 2-1 in the big Lisbon derby with goals from Lima and Vitor Paneira ... Real Madrid thrash Tenerife 5-2 to move closer to a fifth successive Spanish league title. Hugo Sanchez scores twice to take his total for the season to 33.

BELGIUM: Mechelen president John Cordier accedes to personal pleas from Marc Emmers and John Bosman to release them for Holland's midweek international against the Soviet Union in Kiev. Mechelen had originally barred them from travelling because of the league fixture next weekend against Anderlecht.

BRAZIL: Vasco star Bebeto says he is desperate to accept an offer to play in Europe next season because he is playing too much football in Brazil.

ITALY: World Cup organising chief Luca di Montezemolo says he seriously worried that stadium work in Naples will not be completed in time for the finals.

MONDAY, MARCH 26

ACTION: A United Germany team lose 3-1 to a World XI in a veterans charoty match in Dresden to raise funds towards the restoration of the old city castle. Stars on view include Beckenbauer, Breitner, Overath, Rummenigge, Kreische, Sparwasser, Moore, Charlton, Jairzinho, Cruyff, Juanito and Kempes.

BELGIUM: Gilbert Bodart, the national team's reserve goalkeeper, signs a new seven-year contract with Standard Liege.

HOLLAND: Thys Libregts's lawyer says he has received a fax from the federation informing him that Libregts has been effectively dismissed as national manager. Libregts has been put on half-pay until the end of his contract and barred from any World Cup involvement.

ITALY: Sampdoria medical advisers say Brazil veteran Toninho Cerezo may have to quit football after tearing knee ligaments in the weekend league match against Bologna ... Diego Maradona flies off to Japan for his promotional date, thus confirming earlier speculation that he would miss the Scotland v Argentina game.

SOVIET UNION: Lokomotiv Moscow become the first Soviet club to sign an American when they contract Dale Mulholland, 25, who had previously played for the Orlando Lions.

WEST GERMANY: Stuttgart sack coach Arie Haan and appoint assistant Willi Entenmann as caretaker.

TUESDAY, MARCH 27

ACTION: Northern Ireland lose 3-2 at home to Norway ... the Irish Republic beat England 4-1 in a B international.

BRAZIL: State President Fernando Collor de Mello tells FIFA president Joao Havelange he wants Brazil to be the 1998 World Cup hosts. CBF president Ricardo Teixeira says that in that case they would need to spend a minimum £4billion on stadia and telecommunications redevelopment.

HOLLAND: PSV general manager Kees Ploegsma says that, following talks between the board and coach Guus Hiddink last Friday, there was only a 50-50 chance of Hiddink staying with the club beyond the end of the season.

ITALY: The Italian police authorities say that 11,000 extra officers will be used to patrol the World Cup. In response to trade union protests, Urban Affairs Minister Carmelo Conte says that all measures are being taken to try to prevent any addition to the construction death toll, which stands at 23 after 677 reported site accidents.

TOMMY CASSIDY

In our Diary section of the March 1990 issue, it was stated that Tommy Cassidy, the former Northern Ireland international, had been banned by UEFA from all football for alleged corruption offences.

World Soccer accepts that the story was not correct. The ban is in respect of UEFA events only and was imposed because UEFA did not uphold Mr Cassidy's allegations of corruption against certain APOEL club officials and against match officials in certain European games.

Mr Cassidy is appealing against the decision and hopes to continue his career in football, both UEFA controlled and otherwise.

We apologise to Mr Cassidy for the distress caused to him by the story and as an expression of our regret World Soccer has agreed to pay Mr Cassidy damages and his legal costs.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA lay down the law at a three-day get-together for World Cup referees. They are to speed up play by cutting down on time-wasting over fouls, injuries and substitutions; they must punish deliberate handball with a yellow card.

WEST GERMANY: Werder Bremen reach the cup final for the second successive year thanks to a 2-0 semi-final victory over Eintracht Braunschweig.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28

ACTION: East Germany beat the United States 3-2, Rumania win 3-1 away to Egypt (whose manager Mahmoud El-Gohary offers his resignation), England beat Brazil 1-0, Greece beat Israel 2-1, Hungary lose 3-1 at home to France, Luxembourg lose 2-1 at home to Iceland, Poland and Yugoslavia draw 0-0, Scotland beat Argentina 1-0, the Soviet Union beat Holland 2-1, the Irish Republic beat Wales 1-0 and the Austrians hit back from 2-0 down at the interval to defeat Spain 3-2 ... in the European under-21 quarter-final returns, Sweden beat Czechoslovakia 4-0 and West Germany lose 2-1 after extra time at home to the Soviet Union.

Jensen.

DENMARK: Brondby agree to buy back John Jensen from Hamburg at the end of the West German season.

FRANCE: Marseille sign Pascal Rousseau from Laval as goalkeeping cover for the rest of the season. Jean Castaneda, formerly of Saint-Etienne, will take over first-team duties from injured Gaetan Huard.

HOLLAND: PSV's Brazil star Romario may not now be fit for the World Cup finals after needing a second operation on his broken right leg which had not been healing properly.

ITALY: Sampdoria goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca steps up into the World Cup frame when he is named reserve to Walter Zenga for the international against Switzerland. Regular deputy Stefano Tacconi has been ruled out by calf trouble ... national team doctor Leonardo Vecchiet says that all the national team players will be discouraged from smoking and sex in the three weeks leading up to the World Cup finals ... Milan city officials say the pitch in the Stadio Meazza at San Siro will be returfed for the World Cup if it is not up to scratch by the end of the Italian league season on April 29.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA spokesmen say that Michel Vautrot (France), George Smith (Scotland), Helmut Kohl (Austria) and Zoran Petrovic (Yugoslavia) could be in danger of being dropped from the World Cup list because of injury and fitness problems.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29

ACTION: In the European under-21 quarter-finals returns, Yugoslavia beat Bulgaria 1-0 and Spain beat Italy also by 1-0 but lose 3-2 on aggregate.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30

SPAIN: Atletico Madrid's Portuguese star Paulo Future summons a Press conference to formally announce that he wants a transfer ... Malaga apply to the federation for permission to line up newly-arrived Colombian World Cup star Albeiro Usurriaga in the weekend's league match against Oviedo ... Castilla, the Real Madrid nursery team struggling at the foot of the second division, agree to borrow Rumanian midfielder Marcel Sabou from Dinamo Bucharest until the end of the season.

SATURDAY, MARCH 31

ACTION: Switzerland lose 1-0 at home to Italy. Italy owe their first victory in four games to a goal from De Agostini ... Marseille pull to within two points of leaders Bordeaux thanks to a 4-1 win over Lille which sees another Papin hat-trick ... Bayern Munich beat managerless Stuttgart 3-1 to maintain their top-of-the-table lead.

SUNDAY, APRIL 1

ACTION: Brugge win 4-0 away to Antwerp to take decisive advantage of Anderlecht's shock 3-0 home defeat at the hands of Mechelen 24 hours earlier ... Hungarian star Lajos Detari scores a hat-trick of penalties in Greece as Olympiakos beat Ethnikos 4-1 to stay second behind Panathinaikos ... in Holland Ajax win 1-0 away to Feyenoord thanks to a goal from Danny Bergkamp. That lifts them within striking distance of leaders PSV ... Algerian striker Rabah Madjer scores a hat-trick as Porto beat Feirense 3-1 to step nearer the Portuguese title ... Rayo Vallecano, bottom of the first division, have two players sent off in a 2-0 derby defeat by Atletico Madrid. But Atletico are still nine points behind leaders Real Madrid, whose deliberately-weakened team beat Zaragoza 1-0 the previous evening.

MONDAY, APRIL 2

BRAZIL: National manager Sebastiao Lazaroni confirms, reluctantly, that he will take over Italian club Fiorentina after the World Cup finals ... the CBF warns all players that any who are selected for the finals squad but fail to attend training camp on April 23 risk being dropped.

EAST GERMANY: Struggling HFC Halle, facing relegation and a major cash crisis, are bailed out by Prince Albert of Anhalt who buys up 15,000 tickets for the next home match against Lok Leipzig.

ITALY: Italy's World Cup bonus is revealed as being £250,000-a-man for victory in the finals in July. That applies to all 22 members of the squad and is dependent on success in each stage of the tournament ... Milan appeal to UEFA against a three-game ban imposed on midfield star Roberto Donadoni after being sent off for dissent in the Champions' Cup quarter-final return against Mechelen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 3

ACTION: Switzerland beat Rumania 2-1 with Heinz Hermann scoring in his 100th international ... World Cup-holders Argentina win 1-0 against Linfield in Belfast ... Northern Ireland beat Israel 2-1 in an under-21 match which is abandoned after 88 minutes because of a floodlight failure at Coleraine ... in the Cup-winners' Cup semi-final first leg, Monaco are held 2-2 at home by Sampdoria, for whom Gianluca Vialli scores twice ... in the UEFA Cup, Werder Bremen draw 1-1 at home against Fiorentina.

ARGENTINA: National manager Carlos Bilardo says he will step down after the World Cup finals. And then? "I do not plan to move from Buenos Aires. Argentina needs people who want to stay, not to leave."

DIARY

WORLD SOCCER'S GLOBAL NEWS SERVICE CONDUCTED BY KEIR RADNEDGE

EAST GERMANY: Magdeburg are new title favourites. They win 1-0 away to Fortschritt Bischofswerda while Dresden go down 2-0 away to Rot-Weiss Erfurt.

FRANCE: The national Olympic and Sports Committee proposes building a new stadiu, with an 80,000 capacity, on the Paris outskirts at Vincennes as the key to a bid to host the 1998 World Cup finals. Current estimated cost is £120million.

HOLLAND: Ronald Koeman says on Dutch radio that, in a vote, nine out of 15 members of the national squad had voted in favour of Johan Cruyff being appointed as World Cup caretaker. Koeman says: "It's logical. Gullit, Van Basten and Rijkaard are in favour, so is Wouters." Cruyff, approached by the press in Barcelona while preparing for Thursday's Spanish cup final against Real Madrid, says: "It can't do any harm to talk it over. But the Spanish cup final is my priority right now." ... the federation's appeal committee causes a storm by deciding that TV evidence can be admissable on an incident a referee has failed to see. The committee rejects an appeal by Ajax skipper Jan Wouters against a six-game ban imposed for a foul on Volendam's Alex Pastoor and which was not seen by the referee ... Ajax pull level on points with PSV at the top thanks to a 5-0 home thrashing of Haarlem. Dennis Bergkamp scores twice in a victory which sees former international fullback Sonny Silooy play his first game of the season after a serious knee injury.

ITALY: Promotion-hunting Pisa agree terms to sign Henrik Larsen from Lyngby is they go up at the end of the season. The deal is arranged through Klaas Berggren, former Pisa midfielder who is now Lyngby general manager ... World Cup organising chief Luca di Montezemolo is urged by FIFA to returf the Stadio Meazza at Milan which will stage the Opening Match of the World Cup finals ... Lazio claim to have agreed post-World Cup transfer terms with Valdo of Benfica.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4

ACTION: Czechoslovakia are humiliatingly defeated 1-0 at home by Egypt ... in the Champions' Cup semi-final opener Marseille squeeze a 2-1 win over Benfica, whose president speculates over why Marseille are not subject to dope tests; Milan sneak a 1-0 win over Bayern Munich; in the Cup-winners' Cup, Anderlecht beat Dinamo Bucharest 1-0; in the UEFA Cup Juventus beat Koln 3-2.

BELGIUM: The European Community says it will press UEFA to bring forward the date for easing foreign-player restrictions. UEFA had proposed January 1, 1993, to permit for first division clubs only a three-imports maximum per team plus an unrestricted number of five-year residence players.

GREECE: Olympiakos (3-3 and 5-4 agg v Panathinaikos) qualify to face OFGI Crete (1-0 and 1-0 agg v Apollon) in the Greek cup final.

HOLLAND: A Utrecht court rules that, since Thys Libregts has lost the confidence of his players, he cannot expect his contract to be upheld to allow him to manage Holland at the World Cup finals.

ITALY: The remodelled Stadio Olimpico in Rome will be blessed on May 31 by Pope John Paul II.

THURSDAY, APRIL 5

BRAZIL: Serginho, Brazil's 1982 World Cup centre forward, is banned for 150 days and eight games after a brawl during a match between his club, Santos, and Sao Paulo FC. The irony was that Serginho was sitting on the substitutes' bench when the punch-up began!

PORTUGAL: Benfica's president Joao Santos calls on UEFA for full dope tests after the second leg of the Champions' Cup semi-final against Marseille.

SPAIN: A disappointingly bad-tempered cup final ends with Barcelona beating Real Madrid 2-0 in Valencia. Amor and Salinas score the goals. Madrid's Hierro is sent off shortly before half-time. Later 250 celebrating Barcelona fanms clash with police back in the Catalan capital.

TURKEY: Former West German goalkeeper Toni Schumacher extends his contract with Fenerbahce for a further year for £210,000.

WEST GERMANY: Leading sports officials from West and East Germany agree to work on a formula to merge the two countries' sports systems.

FRIDAY, APRIL 6

AUSTRIA: Toni Polster is appointed captain of Austria for the game against Hungary, after the permanent axing of Heribert Weber.

ITALY: Ruud Gullit trains again for Milan but coach Arrigo Sacchi says he is training for next season, not this one.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA announce that Antwerp defender Patrick Schooten tested positive after the UEFA Cup quarter-final return against Koln last month. It is the first positive test in 20 this season and only the second since a random testing system was instituted in 1980 ... FIFA now state formally that the Milan pitch "must be relaid" in time for the World Cup's Opening Match.

WEST GERMANY: Bochum hit back from 2-0 down at the interval to draw 3-3 with St Pauli. Kaiserslautern beat Fortuna Dusseldorf 1-0 with a goal from World Cup hopeful Stefan Kuntz.

SATURDAY, APRIL 7

ACTION: Egypt's Al Ahly beat Ittihad of Libya 5-0 in an African Cup-tie. It is the first meeting between senior teams from the countries for 13 years ... in East Germany a 1-1 draw between Carl Zeiss Jena and FC (ex-Dynamo) Berlin is accompanied by hooligan violence with fans throwing stones and bottles at police. Several police officers are struck by flares fired by hooligans, many of whom are known to be West Germans who have attached themselves to FC Berlin ... Bordeaux lose 1-0 at home to Auxerre but Marseille miss a chance to pull level on points as they are held 2-2 at Cannes ... Real Sociedad draw 0-0 at home to Atletico Madrid ... Bayern Munich retain their three-point lead despite being held 2-2 away to Bayer Uerdingen.

HOLLAND: PSV confirm that coach Guus Hiddink will leave at the season's end.

ITALY: Milan city officials and representatives of Inter and Milan fail to agree a timetable for relaying the Meazza stadium pitch. The corporation want to begin work before the end of the league campaign on April 29 ... World Cup organising chief Luca di Montezemolo says he fears a plot against the finals among politicians and unions.

SUNDAY, APRIL 8

ACTION: The United States beat Iceland 4-1 in St Louis ... hooligan violence Down Under with more than 200 police being rushed in to quell fighting among 300 fans at a National League match between arch-rivals Sydney Olympic and Preston Macedonia. The match ends in a 2-2 draw in front of a crowd registered at only 4,500 ... in two astonishing FA Cup semi-finals Crystal Palace beat Liverpool 4-3 and Oldham draw 3-3 with Manchester United ... Ajax edge a point ahead of PSV thanks to a 1-0 win at Groningen thank to a goal from defender Marciano Vink. PSV are held goalless away to Volendam ... in Hungary Ujpest lose 1-0 away to Vac and MTK-VM pull level on points thanks to a 1-1 draw with Bekescsaba ... Milan stay one point clear of Napoli as both are held goalless away – Milan by Bologna and Napoli by Atalanta. But a timebomb is planted in the Atalanta v Napoli game where the Napoli midfielder Alemao has to be substituted ten minutes before the end after being hit by a coin thrown from the crowd ... Real Madrid bounce back from their cup final defeat by defeating Celta 3-0 om goals from Sanchis, Michel and Losada.

MONDAY, APRIL 9

ITALY: Napoli formally request that both points from the weekend's goalless draw at Atalanta be awarded to them because of the coin-throwing which laid low Brazil's Alemao.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA's appeal jury rejects an appeal from Roberto Donadoni and Milan against his three-game European club ban imposed after his expulsion in the Champions' Cup quarter-final return against Mechelen.

WEST GERMANY: Nurnberg sack coach Hermann Gerland after his attack on club president Gerd Smelzer in Der Spiegel.

TUESDAY, APRIL 10

EAST GERMANY: Joachim Streich, former 100-caps winning international centre forward, agrees to become coach next season to Eintracht Braunschweig in West Germany. This will be the first formal cross-border coaching appointment. Streich has been manager of his old club Magdeburg for the past five years.

FRANCE: Marseille call in ex-national team keeper Philippe Bergeroo to help goalkeeper training for rusty veteran Jean Castaneda.

ITALY: The FIGC's disciplinary commission nullifies the result of the weekend clash between Atalanta and Napoli pending its verdict on the coin-throwing incident which KO'd Alemao ... all parties in Milan agree that the Meazza will be closed from April 25 for pitch relaying. That means Milan must move for their potentially decisive last championship match against Bari.

UNITED STATES: Now Colombus and Ohio state university join the bandwagon of venues seeking World Cup matches in 1994.

WEST GERMANY: Werder Bremen say they are close to clinching agreement for the £5.5million post-World Cup sale of forward Karl-Heinz Riedle to Lazio ... Stefan Kuntz of Kaiserslautern is the only new boy in the national squad for the April 25 friendly against Uruguay.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11

ACTION: Algeria and Sweden draw 1-1, Austria beat Hungary 3-0, Demmark beat Turkey 1-0, East Germany beat Egypt 2-0 ... Spain beat an Imports XI 3-1 in the Canaries ... in a European under-21 semi-final first leg, Yugoslavia and Italy draw 0-0 ... in the South American club cup Colo-Colo and Universidad Catolica draw 0-0 in an all-Chilean group three tie.

HOLLAND: PSV strike their best form to win 4-0 away to RKC and recapture the league leadership. Lerby, Van Aerle and Povlsen, two, score the goals.

ITALY: The FIGC awards the weekend's goalless draw against Atalanta by 2-0 a tavolino to Napoli ... Lazio complete details for the £5.5million summer transfer of Karl-Heinz Riedle from Werder Bremen ... Luciano Pavarotti, Placido Domingo and Jose Carreras – the world's three top tenors – will sing in a musical extravaganza to mark the Final of the World Cup. It will take place the evening before the Final.

PORTUGAL: Benfica president Joao Santos is handed a formal ticking-off by UEFA for suggestions about dope-testing Marseille players.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA president Joao Havelange is asked by the Portuguese federation to add them to the list of contenders to host the 1990 finals.

WEST GERMANY: Nurnberg sign up Arie Haan, just sacked by Stuttgart, to fill their managerial vacancy.

THURSDAY, APRIL 12

AUSTRIA: Gerhard Rodax's personal adviser says Rodax is looking to secure a transfer to Spain or Italy before the end of this sason.

ITALY: Atalanta decide to appeal at the committee-room loss of the Napoli game ... World Cup organisers say more than two million tickets have been sold for matches in the first round here.

WEST GERMANY: The full league programme is pulled forward, away from the Easter holidays. Bayern Munich beat Kaiserslautern 3-0 to move four points clear of Leverkusen and Koln. Bayern's star is midfielder Olaf Thon, back in style after almost six months sidelined by injuries.

FRIDAY, APRIL 13

AUSTRIA: National manager Josef Hickersberger says he may think again about quitting after the World Cup.

BRAZIL: Manager Sebastiao Lazaroni says Romario will be included in his World Cup squad in the hope that he will be fit in time for Italy.

ITALY: Ruud Gullit says he expects to make his comeback as a second-half substitute in Milan's weekend match against Verona ... Napoli report that Diego Maradona has lost one stone in the past few weeks – and will need a half-size smaller in boots! ... Urban Affairs Minister Carmelo Conte says that all stasdia should be ready for the World Cup but that many subsidiary local projects will not have been completed in time ... in a rare 'early' match, Milan beat Sampdoria 1-0 with goal from Massaro.

REP.IRELAND: Frank Stapleton is dropped for the first time in 14 years as Jack Charlton names his squad for the friendly against the Soviet Union.

TV SOCCER

SCREENSPORT

May 1: Soccer from Spain.
May 2: Spain.
May 4: Spain.
May 7: Spain.
May 8: Spain.
May 9: Spain.
May 11: Spain.
May 12: Spain.

EUROSPORT

May 2: Goals.
May 2: UEFA Cup Final, first leg.
May 3: UEFA Cup Final (double repeat); World Cup preview.
May 4: World Cup preview.
May 5: World Cup preview.
May 6: Spain; 1970 World Cup film.
May 7: Spain; 1970 World Cup film.
May 8: Goals.
May 9: Cup-winners' Cup Final.
May 10: Cup-winners' Cup (repeat); World Cup preview.
May 11: World Cup preview.
May 12: World Cup preview.
May 13: Cup-winners' Cup (repeat); 1974 World Cup film.
May 14: 1974 World Cup film.
May 16: UEFA Cup Final, second leg.
May 17: UEFA Cup Final (repeat); World Cup preview.
May 19: World Cup preview.
May 20: UEFA Cup Final (repeat); 1978 World Cup film.
May 21: 1978 World Cup film.
May 23: Champions' Cup Final.
May 24: Champions' Cup Final (repeat); World Cup preview.
May 25: World Cup preview.
May 26: World Cup previews.
May 27: Champions' Cup Final (repeat); 1982 World Cup film; World Cup preview.
May 28: World Cup preview.
May 29: World Cup preview.
May 30: World Cup preview.
May 31: World Cup preview.

ITALIA 90

NEW STYLE!!

England Shirts white/sky/red
New Style!! 26/28, 30/2, **£21.99**
34/6, 38/40, 42, **£26.99**, 44, **£27.99**
Shorts 26, 28 **£10.99**
30, 32, 34, 36, 38 **£13.99**
Socks 1-5 **£3.99** 6-12 **£4.99**
Goalkeeper shirt 26/8 30/2 **£20.99**
34/6 38/40 **£27.99**
Goalkeeper shorts 26, 28, **£10.99**
30, 32, 34 **£13.99**
Leisure Suit (shell) S, M, L, XL **£59.99**
Rain Jacket L Boys 30/2 **£27.99**,
S, M, L, XL **£31.99**
Sweat Shirts S, M, L, XL **£25.99**
Tracksuit Sky/Navy 26, 28, 30, 32, **£29.99** 34, S, M, L **£39.99**
England Holdall £14.99
World Cup Special Italia football
great value **£9.99**
Scotland Home (navy)
Away (white / yellow)
Shirts 26/8 30/2 **£19.99**
34/6 38/40 42 **£24.99** 44 **£25.99**
Shorts 26, 28 **£9.99** 30, 32, 34 **£11.99**
Socks 1-5 **£3.99** 6-12 **£4.99**
Goalkeeper Shirt 26/8 30/2 **£19.99**
34/6 38/40 **£26.99**
Goalkeeper Shorts 26, 28 **£10.99**
30, 32, 34 **£12.99**
Leisure Suit (shell) S, M, L, XL **£59.99**
Leisure Shirt navy/purple design
34/6 38/40 42, 44, **£27.99**
T Shirt "5 In A Row" Print on Back, one size only large **£14.99**
Leisure Shorts 30, 32, 34, 36 **£14.99**
T Shirt "Italian Job" S, M, L, XL **£9.99**
World Cup Special Italia football
Intersport exclusive **£9.99**
Scotland tracksuit
26, 28, 30, 32 **£34.99** S, M, L **£44.99**
Scotland holdall £14.99 (not illustrated)

Continental *(New for World Cup)*
Italy, Holland, Eire, West Germany, USSR, Argentina
All available 30/2 **£24.99**
34/6 38/40 42/4 **£29.99**
England Shirts white/sky/red
New Style!! 26/28, 30/2, **£21.99**
34/6, 38/40, 42, **£26.99**, 44, **£27.99**
Scotland Shirts home/away
26/8, 30/2, **£19.99**
34/6, 38/40, 42, **£24.99** 44, **£25.99**

Leisure/Swim Shorts Official Club Product
Chintz cotton short, 2 side pockets, tie waist and inner lining with official club badge.
Teams available:-Liverpool, Man Utd., Glasgow Ranger, Celtic, Leeds, Chelsea, Aston Villa, Forest, Coventry and Watford
Boys, Large Boys **£8.99** XS, S, M, L, XL **£10.99**

PRIORITY ORDER FORM

Telephone orders and enquiries 0536 401297 (2 lines) all calls answered personally. Fax orders to 0536 400296.
Sports World Phoenix Parkway, Corby, Northants NN17 1DT

ITEM	SIZE(S)	NUMBER OF ITEMS	PRICE PER ITEM	AMOUNT

NAME _____ SUB TOTAL
ADDRESS _____ + POSTAGE
TOTAL DUE

POSTCODE _____ PHONE NO. _____

I enclose a crossed cheque/P.O. payable to **SPORTSWORLD Ltd** value £_____ (Sterling only). **WS/MAY 90**

PLEASE ALLOW 7-10 DAYS FOR CHEQUE CLEARANCE. CREDIT CARD AND POSTAL ORDER PAYMENTS ARE PROCESSED WITHIN 3 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT OF ORDER. CUSTOMERS WILL BE NOTIFIED WHERE GOODS ARE NOT AVAILABLE OR WHERE THERE IS AN EXTENTED DELIVERY DATE. PLEASE USE A SEPARATE SHEET FOR LARGER ORDERS.

POSTAGE RATES

ORDER VALUE	UK	EIRE	EUROPE	REST OF WORLD
Up to £40	£1.00	£2.00	£7.50	£15.00
£41- £80	£2.50	£5.00	£12.50	£25.00
over £81	£2.50	Add £2.50 Post per £50 order value	Add £5.00 Post per £50 order value	Add £10.00 Post per £50 order value

Card Type _____
Exp. Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

EUROPEAN ORDERS MASTERCARD EUROCARD ACCEPTED

NEWS FROM

SOUTH AMERICA

FROM ERIC WEIL

Brazil are year's best

Bebeto in action for Brazil against England at Wembley

THE eve of the World Cup is the ideal time to reflect of an intensely busy year in South America.

With both South American Championship and World Cup qualifying games scheduled, more matches than ever were played by the 10 South American countries.

The total of 92 included 26 in the South American Championship, 20 in the World Cup and 46 friendly matches (also in small tournaments) which included 11 clashes against European countries and 28 games between South American sides.

Statistics put Brazil on top with the best 1989 record which looks about right as they won the South American Championship, but this tournament was held on their own ground and largely because of this they were the only South American country to play more games at home than away last year.

Disastrous

Brazil were also one of only two countries to go on European tours and their results on this were disastrous as they lost all three games. In comparison, the other tourists, Chile, of whom less was expected, did a lot better with a draw in England and a win in Northern Ireland.

It must also be taken into consideration that Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay, the three countries which have most of their leading stars playing in Europe, did not have them available – or only some of them – for many of their games. And now Colombia may be in the same boat soon. European clubs have finally taken notice of Colombia's good performances and are after their players.

The four countries in question are also the ones qualified in this year's World Cup finals and the player exodus from them may increase after the finals.

Noteworthy has been that:

Brazil have tried to play very defensively – sometimes 5-4-1 – and this hardly seems to suit their players. In their 22 games they nevertheless scored 39 goals, but their twin attack of Bebeto and Romario, the former leading international scorer in South America last year, would have more potential if it were supported by a more attacking game.

World Cup holders Argentina surprised by scoring only five goals in their 11 matches and only two in their seven South American Championship games when it counted. They came a poor third. True, they played all their games away last year, but judging by their usual home performances, this can not be taken as a disadvantage. Many feel that if Argentina would have had to qualify for the World Cup finals they might have found it difficult with their lack of scoring power.

The most improved team in South America last year were Ecuador under Yugoslav coach Dusan Draskovic. In what was their best ever year, they were fully expected to reach the final round of the South American Championship after beating Uruguay and holding Argentina, but they inexplicably failed to produce that form against poorer rivals.

Back to business in Colombia

COLOMBIAN government officials announced that an early re-start to league soccer seemed likely after meetings with officials from the 15 first division clubs.

It will be remembered that the championship was abandoned during the final round at the end of last year when a referee was shot dead by the drug mafia mixed up in soccer and the government's main concern is to get mafia links out of soccer.

Clubs will have to comply with a number of government guidelines (already mentioned in World Soccer) and their current financial losses due to lack of competition will force them to comply, although in some cases somewhat reluctantly.

Clubs also faced the possibility of losing their players. Most of them had followed America's lead in dismissing their playing staffs, but according to FIFA regulations players become free agents if they do not receive salaries from their clubs for three months.

In any case, when league soccer finally does restart, some clubs will be lining up without their best players. European clubs finally seemed to have noticed the quality of Colombian soccer and a player exodus could hit that country also.

At press time three internationals of Libertadores Cup champions, Nacional – winger John Jairo Trellez, defender Andres Escobar and midfielder Leonez Alvarez had moved to Europe to join Carlos Valderrama who had been the first Colombian to break into European soccer two years ago.

URUGUAY: Four teams – Penarol, Progreso (the current first division champions), Bella Vista and Defensor Sporting – tied top place in the six-team "Liguilla" to qualify two teams for this year's Libertadores Cup and they had to play another round to decide the cup places.

The Uruguayan FA was due to fix dates so as not to interfere with the national team's World Cup preparations.

Penarol, the club which has won the Uruguayan first division on most occasions, but finished joint second with Nacional five points behind Progreso in last season's championship, replaced their coach shortly before the start of the "Liguilla" signing Roberto Fleitas (who had taken Uruguay to the 1987 South American Championship) to take over from Walter Roque.

They were, nevertheless, a bit lucky to finish among the top four and likewise Nacional, the country's other big club, was unlucky to miss a place by a point. The Nacional-Penarol derby finished 1-1 with Penarol defender Gerardo Pilas netting the equalizer a minute from the end.

ECUADOR: Barcelona of Guayaquil became the leading title winners in Ecuador when they clinched their ninth first division crown by drawing 0-0 with Deportiveo Quito in a replayed final round match.

In their previous meeting, Barcelona – needing a draw to clinch the title – equalized with six minutes to go on their rival's field just as home fans invaded the field and the referee suspended the game, not counting the goal. Following lengthy meetings, the FA finally decided to have the entire match replayed.

New coach

First division titles in Ecuador have been won by the following: 9 – Barcelona; 8 – Nacional; 5 – Emelec; 3 – Liga Deportiva Universitaria; 2 – Deportivo Quito; 1 – Everest.

In spite of winning the title, Barcelona signed Argentine coach Oscar Malbernat to replace his compatriot, Miguel Angel Brindisi and the club was also trying to sign foreign players to strengthen the team for Libertadores Cup commitments, while Emelec, the previous year's champions and second this time to take the other cup place, were doing the same.

VENEZUELA: Maritimo and Tachira, who have been dominating Venezuelan soccer in recent years – except last season – are back at the top sharing the lead in the first division which is almost at the halfway stage.

MEXICO: Puebla's Chilean twin strikers, Carlos Poblete and Jorge Aravena, who have scored 26 of the team's 39 goals between them, are keeping their club ahead – by three points – in the Mexican first division.

Poblete netted all four goals in Puebla's recent 4-2 victory over Cruz Azul and tops the scorers table which has foreigners in the first five places – Chile's Poblete has 14, followed by Jorge Comas (Argentine of Veracruz) 13, Edu (Brazilian of America), Jorge Gabrich (Argentine of Irapuato) and Aravena (Chilean of Pubela) with 12.

Foreigners

Major mid-season changes included: Edivaldo (Brazilian) replacing Julio Cesar Romero (Paraguayan) at Puebla and Argentine international Edgardo Bauza for Bruno Davidovic (Yugoslavian) at Veracruz while two players from Honduras – Juvenal Olmos and Eduardo Velet – now also figure among the foreign contingent playing in the Mexican league.

At Guadalajara, Argentine coach Miguel Angel Lopez, who won the title with America in 1985, took over from Hungarian Arpad Fekete.

ARGENTINA: The Argentine National A Division restarted after a seven-week summer break with champions Independiente once again winning in the final minute – 1-0 v Instituto Cordoba – to increase their lead at the top to two points over River Plate.

Other leading teams also dropped points apart from Boca Juniors who had won a three-club tournament with Independiente and River Plate during the break and played excellent fast soccer to defeat Rosario Central 2-0. This left popular Boca Juniors seven points from the top with a match in hand.

PERU: The six-team final round of the de-centralized championship started from which the winner goes into the Libertadores Cup together with Sporting Cristal who had won the first of the season's two championships in Peru. Union Huaral tops the table with full points from two games.

CHILE: Universidad Catolica and Colo Colo continued tied at the top of the table week after week, both having won three and drawn two of their last five games. There are five games to go.

GUATEMALA: Champions Municipal led Suchitepequez on goal difference in the six-team final round of the first division which had four games to go.

Zico wins with Golden Oldies

BRAZIL, fitter than the rest and well led by Zico who had only recently retired from league soccer, easily won the veterans' World Cup in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

In the final between the top two teams in the five-team round robin competition, they easily beat Holland 5-0.

Brazil dropped only one point in their five matches in a 0-0 draw with eternal rivals Argentina which produced some exciting play. Italy and Poland were the other participants.

Brazil: Paulo Sergio, Batista, Luis Pereira, Juninho, Vladimir, Claudio Adao, Zenon, Zico, Rivelino, Serginho (Caturinga), Eder.

Netherlands: Doesburg, Wesselink, Hovenkamp, Rijsbergen, Boeve, Peters, Van Deisen, Willy Van Der Kerkoff, La Ling, John Rep, Rene Van Der Kerkoff.

NORTH AMERICA BY COLIN JOSE

LOP-SIDED IN CANADA

Paul James – Canada.

THE Canadian Soccer League will take on a lop-sided look when the 1990 season begins this month.

With the Calgary Strikers having fallen by the wayside, the Western Division will consist of just four teams instead of last years five, while the Eastern Division has increased by two teams from five to seven.

The two new teams in the east are the Kitchener Spirit and London Lazers and they join the Hamilton Steelers, Toronto Blizzard, North York Rockets, Ottawa Intrepid and Montreal Supra. Five of these teams, Hamilton, Toronto, North York, Kitchener and London are a short drive from one another thus keeping travelling expenses to a minimum.

In contrast two of the four western teams, the Edmonton Brickmen and Winnipeg Fury, are isolated from the other two by the Rocky Mountains, while the Vancouver 86ers and Victoria Vistas are separated by the Georgia Strait.

The seven East Division teams play three games against each division rival, plus home and away matches against the four West Division teams for a total of 26 games. The West Division clubs play two home games and two away with their division opponents.

Hamilton Steelers beaten finalists in the first three years of the league are currently without a coach as last year's coach Vid Horvat has resigned. The club also made a complicated player deal recently involving the Toronto Blizzard and Edmonton Brickmen to obtain Justin Fashanu. Fashanu, Edmonton player coach in 1989, was also voted the leagues Most Valuable Player.

Meanwhile Drew Ferguson, captain of the Steelers last year has become player coach of the Ottawa Intrepid, replacing Paul James who returns to Hamilton. Former Canadian international Randy Ragan comes out of a two year retirement to play for his old team mate Bruce Wilson who is now coaching the Victoria Vistas.

Dwight Hornibrook becomes coach of the Winnipeg Fury replacing Shaun Lowther, while John McGrane former general manager of the Hamilton Steelers will coach the Kitchener Spirit. The Toronto Blizzard are reported to have signed three Argentinian players, Alfredo Killer, Flavio Ivanovich and Jose Leiva.

Canada, the United States and Mexico will play each other early in May at Swangard Stadium in Burnaby, British Columbia. It is hoped that this will be an annual competition with next years competition being held in Los Angeles and 1992 in Mexico City. The event is being sponsored by Corona, a Mexican beer.

ITALIA'90

THE WORLD CUP STICKER ALBUM

The great new Merlin Album PLUS 6 starter stickers absolutely FREE. Retail value 55p.

Just complete the coupon below and send it to Merlin Publishing to receive your free album and stickers.

This brand new collection of 344 World Cup stickers has been created especially for the British and Republic of Ireland fans. The 64 page collector's album is in full colour throughout, and inside its glossy covers you will find the following exciting features...

*Specially expanded section on England, Scotland and the Republic of Ireland.
*Illustrated history of the World Cup.
*Colour guide to the venue and stadia of the 1990 tournament.
*Results grid for you to fill in.
*Wizard offers – super sports goodies available by post direct from Merlin.
*PLUS World Super League and exciting new soccer game. The centre-spread of the album is the super all-colour playing board and the stickers themselves are the playing pieces. Even the backs of the stickers are printed as play money so that you can buy and sell players in an effort to bring together the best possible World Squad.

FREE ORDER VOUCHER

Please send me a copy of the Merlin World Cup 90 album Plus 6 stickers.

Name .....

Adddress .....

.....

.....

.....

Postcode .....

(Print name and address clearly and in block capitals)

Then send voucher to: World Cup Album, Merlin Publishing Ltd., 18 Vincent Avenue, Crownhill, Milton Keynes, MK8.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE RESULTS

Week ending March 25

AUSTRIA

Rapid 0, Tirol 1 (Gorosito 85). Att: 18,500.
St Polten 1 (Ramus 48), FK Austria 1 (Stoger 43). Att: 8,000.
Sturm Graz 0, Austria Salzburg 0. Att: 3,000.
Admira 5 (Walter Knaller 13, Kern 32, Rodax 40, 74, 83), Vienna 1 (Steinkogler 70). Att: 1,500.

BELGIUM

Gent 4 (Veyt 24, Rudi Janssens 37, 52, Walenga 54), Racing 1 (Luyckx 89). Att: 3,500.
Mechelen 3 (Bruno Versavel 4 and 89, Wilmots 65), Lokeren 0. Att: 4,000.
Standard Liege 4 (Vandersmissen 31, 68, 84, Molnar 3), Cercle 1 (Fernai 38). Att: 8,000.
Beerschot 0, St Truiden 0. Att: 3,000.
Charleroi 1 (Kusto 34), Beveren 1 (Camataru 42). Att: 8,000.
Lierse 2 (Van Kerkhoven 10, Boonen 23), FC Liege 1 (Ernes 44). Att: 6,600.
Club Brugge 3 (Varga og 60, Ceuleans 70, Borkelmans 83), Waregem 0. Att: 7,500.
Kortrijk 0, Anderlecht 2 (Degryse 60, Nilis 68). Att: 8,000.
Ekeren 1 (Brandts 60), Antwerp 3 (Van Rooy 1pen, Quaranta 45, Lehnhoff 86). Att: 4,000.

FRANCE

Bordeaux 3 (Pardo 13, Klaus Allofs 44, Paille 55), Paris Saint-Germain 0. Att: 20,000.
Brest 2 (Canabas 12, 21), Marseille 1 (Germain 13). Att: 20,000.
Monaco 2 (Weah 7, Diaz 85), Auxerre 4 (Kovacs 21, 41, 82, Cocard 74). Att: 2,000.
Sochaux 1 (Croci 51), Nice 1 (El Haddaoui 84). Att: 3,689.
Caen 1 (Divert 55), Lyon 1 (Genesio 27). Att: 9,413.
Saint-Etienne 0, Nantes 0. Att: 15,134.
Lille 3 (Angloma 35, 57, Pele 53), Toulouse 0. Att: 4,221.
Toulon 1 (Bursac 71), Metz 1 (Hinschberger 4). Att: 5,000.
Cannes 4 (Sassus 18, Mengual 46pen, 86, Stopyra 75), Mulhouse 1 (N'Diaye 4). Att: 5,000.
Racing 0, Montepellier 0. Att: 16,000.

GREECE

Midweek
Cup semi-final 1st legs: Olympiakos 2, Panathinaikos 1; OFI Crete 0, Apollon 0.
Weekend:
Doxa 2, Apollon 1.
Kalamaria 3, Panionios 3.
OFI 1, AEK 3. Att: .
PAOK 4 (Lagonidis 9, Skartados 35, 40 Alexoulis 48), Olympiakos 1 (Mitropulos 10).
Panserraikos 2 (Tsukalis 33, Patinios 85), Panathinaikos 0.
Ethnikos 1, Aris 1.
Ionikos 0, Xanthi 0.
Larissa 0, Iraklis 0.
Volos 3, Levadiakos 0.

HOLLAND

MVV Maastricht 0, PSV 1 (Kieft 38). Att: 10,000.
Roda 5 (Van Loen 24pen, 44, Hofman 33, 79, Groenendijk 71), Haarlem 0. Att: 5,250.
Willem II 3 (Van der Borgt 25, Van der Ven 33, Loggie 60), Groningen 0. Att: 5,000.
Den Bosch 2 (Hilgers 70, Van der Wiel 75), Vitesse 1 (Van Arum 25). Att: 3,204.
Twente 0, RKC 1 (Van Hoogdalen 87). Att: 4,500.
Roda 5 (Van Loen 8pen, 25, Hofman 31, Groendijk 72, Troost 76), Haarlem 0. Att: 4,000.
Sparta 2 (Houtman 56, Polley 81), Volendam 0. Att: 2,000.
Nijmegen 0, Feyenoord 0. Att: 9,000.
Den Haag 1 (Lindenaar 89), Utrecht 1 (Moore 44). Att: 6,000.
Ajax 1 (Roy 2), Fortuna 0. Att: 9,000.

ITALY

Bologna 1 (Giordano 48), Sampdoria 0. Att: 25,000.
Cremonese 2 (Gualco 29, Chiorri 54), Ascoli 1 (Cvetkovic 82). Att: 10,000.
Fiorentina 0, Cesena 0. Att: 18,000.
Genoa 2 (Fontolan 48, 78), Lazio 2 (Ruotolo 38, Bertoni 71). Att: 25,000.
Inter 7 (Serena 8, 65, Matthaus 9, Berti 27, G Baresi 23, Klinsmann 60, 66), Atalanta 2 (Ferri og 50, Nicolin 69). Att: 50,000.
Lecce 1 (Benedetti 7), Milan 2 (F Baresi 35, Van Basten 59). Att: 41,000.
Napoli 3 (Maradona 13, 28, Francini 65), Juventus 1 (De Agostini 62pen), Att: 67,000.
Roma 5 (Conti 16, Voller 28, 58, Desideri 67, 76), Verona 2 (Magrin 77, Pusceddu 87). Att: 22,000.
Udinese 2 (Balbo 49pen, Brunibra 86), Nari 1 (Loseto 75). Att: 22,000.

PORTUGAL

Tirsense 1, Nacional 0.
Boavista 1, Beira-Mar 2.
Feirense 2, Penafiel 1.
Madeira 1, Vit Guimaraes 1.
Braga 1 (Moroni 87), FC Porto 2 (Madjer 54, Magalhaes 77). Att: 30,000.
Amadira 0, Setubal 1.
Maritimo 1, Portimonense 1.
Chaves 1, Belenenses 1.
Benfica 2 (Vitor Paneira 23, Lima 31), Sporting 1 (Silas 85). Att: 60,000.

SPAIN

Barcelona 0, Atletico Madrid 2 (Orejuela 39, Baltazar 68). Att: 45,000.
Real Madrid 5 (Sanchez 15, 73, Hierro 45, Rugger 53, Martin Vazquez 75). Att: 80,000.
Rayo 0, Logrones 2 (Sarabia 45pen, Rosagro 57). Att: 9,000.
Castellon 0, Valencia 1 (Penev 36). Att: 29,000.
Oviedo 4 (Vinyals 11, 14, Hicks 23, 46), Cadiz 3 (Canillas 13, Husillos 72, 83). Att: 16,000.
Valladolid 3 (Moya 29, 72, 78), Sevilla 0. Att: 22,000.
Mallorca 1 (Nadal 10), Gijon 1 (Jimenez 71). Att: 30,000.
Zaragoza 1 (Sirakov 37), Bilbao 0. Att: 40,000.
Real Sociedad 1 (Fuentes 38), Celta 0. Att: 15,000.
Osasuna 2 (Sola 14, Ciganda 39).
Malaga 0. Att: 18,000.

WEST GERMANY

Hamburg 0, St Pauli 0. Att: 40,300.
Eintracht Frankfurt 0, Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Lesniak 56, Jorginho 65, Thom 87). Att: 30,000.
Bochum 0, Bayern Munich 0. Att: 33,000.
Stuttgart 0, kaiserslautern 1 (Hotic 3). Att: 19,000.
Homburg 1 (Dittmer 80), Borussia Mg 3 (Hermann og 10, Criens 22, Hochstatter 65). Att: 12,000.
Karlsruhe 0, Nurnberg 0. Att: 17,900.
Koln 1 (Hassler 47), Borussia Dortmund 1 (MacLeod 47). Att: 25,000.
Waldhof Mannheim 0, Werder Bremen 0. Att: 11,000.
Uerdingen 0, Fortuna Dusseldorf 1 (Buskens 28). Att:14,200.

Week ending April 1

AUSTRIA

FK Austria 3 (Zsak 29, A Ogris 73, 78pen), Vienna 0. Att: 2,800.
Austria Salburg 1 (Marko 1), St Polten 1 (E Ogris 32). Att: 8,500.
Tirol 2 (Danek 33pen, Peisl 35), Sturm Graz 1 (Thonhofer 22). Att: 6,000.
Admira 0, Rapid 2 (Pfeifenberger 46, 80). Att: 6,500.

BELGIUM

Midweek
Cup semi-finals, 1st legs: Lokeren 0, FC Liege 1 (Quain 15); Standard 1 (Tikva 42), G Ekeren 0.
Weekend:
Anderlecht 0, Mechelen 3 (Wilmots 4, Bosman 25, De Wilde 75). Att: 32,000.
Racing 1 (Krohm 3pen), Germinal Ekeren 1 (Van Wambeke 58pen). Att: 3,000.
Antwerp 0, Brugge 4 (Booy 3, 49, 60, Beyens 89). Att: 16,000.
St Truiden 1 (Kingambo 85, Standard 1 (Thans 73). Att: 9,000.
Beerschot 2 (Van Cleemput 1, Daerden 65), Charleroi 0. Att: 3,000.
Lokeren (Etim 7), Gent 1 (Balenga 65). Att: 7,000.
Waregem 2 (Niederbacher 8, 25), Lierse 1 (Boonen 54). Att: 3,500.
Cercle 1 (Van Thournhout 61), Kortrijk 2 (Kruzen 23, 34). Att: 2,300.
FC Liege 3 (Nijskens 25, 40, Boffin 85), Beveren 2 (Van Kessel 13, Lodders 79). Att: 4,000.

FRANCE

Nantes 0, Monaco 0. Att: 9,000.
Lyon 0, Cannes 1 (Stopyra 4). Att: 19,200.
Marseille 4 (Waddle 15, Papin 16, 78, 85), Lille 1 (Etard 56). Att: 25,000.
Toulouse 1 (Marcico 48), Saint-Etienne 1 (Giuliano 19). Att: 12,500.
Mulhouse 0, Bordeaux 0. Att: 6,000.
Nice 1 (Angers 51), Toulon 2 (Bursac 12, Anziani 80). Att: 9,800.
Paris Saint-Germain 3 (Zlatko Vujovic 30, 48, Bravo 51), Caen 1 (Bourgeois 84). Att: 12,000.
Metz 0, Racing Paris 0. Att: 8,400.
Montpellier 2 (Cantona 58, 88), Sochaux 0. Att: 10,000.

GREECE

AEK 4, Panseraikos 0.
Apollon 4, OFI 0.
Kalamaria 1, Doxa 1.
Aris 1, Larissa 0.
Levadiakos 1, Heraklis 0.
Xanthi 2, Volos 0.
Olympiakos 4 (Detari 31pen, 35pen, 64pen, Anastopulos 74), Ethnikos 1 (Kardaris 30).
Panathinaikos 4 (Saravakos 19, H Bonev 33pen, Kalatzis 75, K Warzycha 82), Ionikos 1 (Daraklitsas 53).
Panionios 2, PAOK 3.

HOLLAND

Fortuna 2 (Reijners 49, Clayton 86), Den Haag 1 (Lems 5). Att: 3,500.
Groningen 1 (Eijkelkamp 65). Att: 9,000.
Den Bosch 1 (Gusgens 40), Willem II (Van Geel 37pen). Att: 5,500.
Haarlem 1 (Echteld 88), NEC Nijmegen (Van der Gaag 68). Att: 4,500.
Feyenoord 0, Ajax 1 (Bergkamp 46). Att: 45,000.
Vitesse 0, PSV 2 (Ellerman 33, Kieft 51). Att: 13,500.
RKC 1 (Hoekstra 69), MVV 1 (Verbeek 24). Att: 2,500.
Volendam 2 (Vermes 1, Berghuis 47), Twente 1 (Ter Avest 31). Att: 4,000.
Utrecht 2 (Moore 40, Boogers 73), Sparta 1 (Houötman 18). Att: 6,300.

ITALY

No first division programme this weekend because of the international against Switzerland.

PORTUGAL

Midweek
Cup, qtr-fnls: Farense 4, Varonguense 0; Estrela 1, Tirsense 0.
Weekend:
Setubal 0, Belenenses 2.
Guimaraes 0, Amadora 0.
Beira Mar 1, Uniao 0.
Nacional 2, Boavista 1.
Penafiel 0, Tirsense 0.
FC Porto 3 (Madjer 6, 49, 73), Feirense 1 (Miguel 60).
Portimonense 1, Braga 0.
Sporting 1 (Joao Luis og 57), Maritimo 0.
Benfica 2 (Magnusson 49, 68), Chaves 0.

SPAIN

Gijon 0, Barcelona 2 (Valverde 48, 82). Att: 35,000.
Zaragoza 0, Real Madrid 1 (Aldana 77). Att: 40,000.
Logrones 1 (Sarabia 20), Real Sociedad 0. Att: 16,500.
Celta 1 (Prieto 70pen), Tenerife 0. Att: 13,000.
Bilbao 2 (Urrutia 64, Mendiguren 77), Valladolid 2 (Damien 37, Moya 85). Att: 17,500.
At Madrid 2 (Baltazar 23, 70), Rayo 0. Att: 24,000.
Malaga 1 (Paquito 59), Oviedo 0. Att: 19,000.
Sevilla 1 (Polster 70), Osasuna 1 (Iba 89). Att: 34,000.
Cadiz 1 (Canillas 54), Castellon 0. Att: 12,000.
Valencia 1 (Arroyo 70), Mallorca 0. Att: 23,000.

WEST GERMANY

Midweek
Cup, semi-finals: Werder Bremen 2 (Eilts 12, Riedle 89), Eintracht Braunschweig 0; Kickers Offenbach 0, Kaiserslautern 1 (Dooley 52).
Weekend:
Fortuna Dusseldorf 1 (Schutz 15), Homburg 0. Att: 12,000.
Borussia Dortmund 2 (Michael Rummenigge 22, Wegmann 89). Att: 31,730.
Werder Bremen 2 (Bockenfeld 34, Eilts 44), Hamburg 1 (Furtok 12). Att: 22,000.
Nurnberg 1 (Dittwar 17pen), Koln 1 (Girtz 23). Att: 23,600.
Borussia Mg 0, Karlsruhe 0. Att: 21,000.
Kaiserslautern 2 (Lelle 19, Kuntz 80), Bayer Uerdingen 1 (Passack 30). Att: 25,000.
Bayern Munich 3 (Wohlfarth 26, Pflugler 62, Kohler 69), Stuttgart 1 (Walter 22). Att: 47,000.
Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Feinbier 4, Kree 61), Bochum 1 (Rzehaczek 13). Att: 14,000.
St Pauli 2 (Ottens 24, 52), Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Andersen 35, Bein 61). Att: 20,500.

Week ending April 8

AUSTRIA

Sturm Graz 2 (Diaz 22, Pegam 53), Tirol 0. Att: 5,000.
Rapid 1 (Fjortoft 56), Admira 1 (Rodax 42). Att: 4,000.
St Polten 1 (Kempes 74), Aus Salzburg 1 (Flajs og 51). Att: 4,000.
Vienna 0, FK Austria 4 (Milijevski 50, 56, 70, Pleva 62). Att: 1,500.

BELGIUM

Gent 1 (Verdegem 89), Anderlecht 2 (Nilis 29, Van der Linden 77). Att: 16,000.
Mechelen 3 (Wilmots 10, Bruno Versavel 33, Ohana 57), Cercle 0. Att: 8,600.
Standard 1 (Thans 71), Beerschot 1 (Brylle 61). Att: 10,000.
Charleroi 2 (Hurtado 52, 82), Liege 0. Att: 9,000.
Beveren 1 (Lodders 57), Waregem 0. Att: 6,500.
Lierse 2 (Van Kerckhoven 9, Viscaal 82), Antwerp 1 (Smidts 89). Att: 7,000.
Club Brugge 4 (Booij 10, Ceulemans 63, Farina 88, Christiaens 90), Racing 0. Att: Germinal Ekeren 2 (Abaels 40, 46), Lokeren (Samson 10, Vandermeulen 58). Att: 4,000.
Kortrijk 2 (Kruzen 40, 51), St Truiden 1 (Cvetkovic 60). Att: 3,000.

FRANCE

Paris SG 1 (Simba 79), Mulhouse 0. Att: 9,000.
Bordeaux 0, Auxerre 1 (Matysik 28). Att: 20,000.
Cannes 2 (Roche og 6, Ravera 78), Marseille 2 (Papin 3, Vercruysse 71). Att: 18,000.
Monaco 1 (Dib 75), Lyon 0. Att: 1,000.
Sochaux 0, Metz 0. Att: 3,000.
Brest 3 (Robin 1, Serrer 80pen, Salaun 88), Nantes 2 (Loko 7, Burruchaga 77). Att: 12,000.
Lille 2 (Angloma 20, Vandernbergh 47), Racing 1 (Bouderbala 83). Att: 4,000.
Caen 0, Toulouse 1 (Marcico 88). Att: 8,000.
Toulon 3 (Bursac 49, 63, 82), Montpellier 0. Att: 6,000.
Saint-Etienne 0, Nice 0. Att: 7,000.

HOLLAND

Willem II 1 (Feskens 89), Vitesse 1 (Van der Brom 32). Att: 7,700.
NEC 1 (Arts 57pen), Groningen 1 (Eykelkamp 29). Att: 3,000.
Ajax 5 (Pettersson 44, Bergkamp 47, 50, Witschge 57, Willems 76), Haarlem 0. Att: 10,000.
Den Haag 2 (Van der Laan 27, Lindenaar 55), Feyenoord 0. Att: 14,000.
Sparta 4 (Polley 20, 41, Houtman 55, Sandel 85)), Fortuna 1 (Clayton 71). Att: 2,500.
Twente 3 (Gaasbeek 16, Nielsen 39, Schmidt 58), Utrecht 1 (Moore 85). Att: 4,000.
Groningen 0, Ajax 1 (Vink 52). Att: 13,500.
Volendam 0, PSV 0. Att: 8,000.
Roda 0, Den Bosch 3 (De Meijer 37, Van de Wiel 44, Van Duren 60). Att: 5,000.

ITALY

Ascoli 1 (Cvetkovic 30), Udinese 0. Att: 8,000.
Atalanta 0, Napoli 0. Att: 32,000.
Bari 0, Lazio 0. Att: 25,000.
Bologna 0, Milan 0. Att: 42,000.
Verona 1 (Fanna 7), Genoa 1 (Fontolan 69). Att: 26,000.
Inter 1 (Brehme 64), Cesena 1 (Agostini 80). Att: 38,000.
Juventus 4 (Napoli 2, Schillaci 19, Alessio 25, Casiraghi 55), Cremonese 0. Att: 20,000.
Roma 0, Fiorentina 0. Att: 23,000.
Sampdoria 1 (Carboni 26), Lecce 0. Att: 23,000.

PORTUGAL

Feirense 1, Portimonense 1.
Uniao 3, Nacional 2.
Chaves 2, Setubal 0.
Belenenses 4, Guimaraes 0.
Amadora 3, Beira Mar 1.
Boavista 3, Penafiel 0.
Tirsense 1 (Kipulu 10), Porto 2 (Madjer 33, Rui Aguas 78).
Braga 1 (Victor Diarte 8), Sporting 1 (Carlos Xavier 30).
Maritimo 1 (Jose Luis 14), Benfica 1 (Vata Garcia 60).

SPAIN

Midweek
Cup final: Barcelona 2 (Amor 70, Salinas 89), Real Madrid 0. Att: 52,000 (in Valencia).
Weekend:
Real Sociedad 0, At Madrid 0. Att: 17,000.
Real Madrid 3 (Sanchis 38, Michel 85, Losada 75), Celta 0. Att: 60,000.
Barcelona 2 (Valverde 47, 60), Valencia 1 (Penev 18pen). Att: 55,000.
Rayo (Maradona 39), Gijon 2 (Manjarin 10, Emilio 73pen). Att: 9,000.
Osasuna 1 (Sola 84), Bilbao 1 (Garitano 62). Att: 22,000.
Tenerife 3 (Guina 11, Rommel 58, Delgado 65), Logrones 1 (Rosagro 26). Att: 20,000.
Oviedo 0, Sevilla 3 (Conte 24, Zuniga 70, Gorriaran og 82). Att: 18,000.
Valladolid 2 (Fonseca 70, 18pen), Zaragoza 1 (Pardeza 43). Att: 12,000.
Mallorca 5 (Nadal 23, Marcos 52, 85, Calderon 68, Cortes 83pen), Cadiz 1 (Montero 19pen). Att: 15,000.
Castellon 1 (Pelletti 7), Malaga 1 (Rinas 60). Att: 20,000.

WEST GERMANY

Bochum 3 (Stefan Kohn 36, Legat 53, Rzehaczek 60), St Pauli 3 (Golke 8, 33, Knabel 42). Att: 13,000.
Kaiserslautern 1 (Kuntz 36), Fortuna Dusseldorf 0. Att: 35,500.
Stuttgart 0, Leverkusen 0. Att: .
Uerdingen 2 (Reich 48, W Funkel 87), Bayern Munich 2 (McInally 34, Dorfner 64). Att: 20,000.
Karlsruhe 0, Homburg 2 (Christian Hermann 42, Maciel 81). Att: 15,000.
Koln 3 (Effenberg og 29, Gotz 58, Rudy 84), Borussia Mg 0. Att: 32,000.
Waldhof Mannheim 1 (Rudel 67), Nurnberg 1 (Sane 40). Att: 10,000. 10,000
Hamburg 1 (Von Heesen 3), Borussia Dortmund 1 (Breitzke 13). Att: 32,000.
Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Andersen 57), Werder Bremen 0. Att: 25,000.

Week ending April 15

AUSTRIA

Tirol 6 (Gorosito 7, Westerthaler 23, 24, Pecl og 46, Pacult 65, 86), Rapid 1 (Kranjcar 89). Att: 15,000.
FK Austria 1 (Aigner 70pen), St Polten 0. Att: 3,300.
Vienna 0, Admira 0. Att: 1,500.
Aus Salzburg 0, Sturm Graz 0. Att: 8,000.

BELGIUM

St Truiden 1 (Driesen 29pen), Mechelen 0. Att: 11,000.
Cercle 1 (Frenay 90), Gent 0. Att: 3,500.
Anderlecht 2 (Verheyen 8, Vervoort 70), Ekeren 0. Att: 13,500.
Lokeren 0, Brugge 3 (De Roover og 30, Farina 60, 64). Att: 8,000.
Racing 1 (Asselman 34), Lierse 1 (Goossen 85). Att: 2,500.
Antwerp 0, Beveren 0. Att: 5,500.
Waregem 3 (Teppers 43, Van Baekel 51, Niederbacher 74), Liege 1 (Ikpeba 68). Att: 2,500.
Beerschot 0, Kortrijk 2 (Janssen 10, Kruzen 51). Att: 2,000.
Standard 5 (Hellers 13, 77, Vandersmussen 28, 69, Rube Nilsen 80), Charleroi 1 (Beugnies 72). Att: 8,000.

FRANCE

Midweek
Cup, 3rd rd: Martigues 0, Mulhouse 2; Bordeaux 4, Metz 0; Montpellier 2, Nantes 0; Racing 5, Guegnon 0; Marseille 2, Nimes 0; Avignon 2, Orleans 1; Valenciennes 3, St-Etienne 4 (aet); Lille 0, Cannes 0 (4-5 pens, aet).
Weekend:
Marseille 2 (Waddle 59, 88), Bordeaux 0. Att: 40.000.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE RESULTS

Lyon 1 (Kabongo 49), Paris SG 2 (Simba 65, Sene 79). Att: 22,000.
Toulouse 2 (Marcico 25, Pavon 70), Brest 1 (Ferre 32). Att: 3,000.
Metz 1 (Zenier 37), St-Etienne 0. Att: 5,000.
Racing 1 (Boudebala 87), Sochaux 1 (Laurey 38). Att: 3,000.
Auxerre 1 (Kovacs 27), Cannes 0. Att: 9,000.
Nantes 4 (Robert 34, Burruchaga 54, Vercauteren 66pen, 75), Toulon 0. Att: 9,000.
Nice 1 (Langers 72pen), Caen 0. Att: 8,000.
Montpellier 5 (Valderrama 9, Xuereb 48, Blanc 56, 80, Cantona 61pen), Lille 0. Att: 9,000.

GREECE

Midweek:
Ethnikos 1, Panionios 3.
Iraklis 1, Aris 1.
Ionikos 0, AEK 0.
Larissa 1 (Nassiakos 30), Olympiakos 1 (Anastopulos 21).
Xanthi 2, Levadiakos 0.
Volos 1 (Boda 63pen), Panathinaikos 2 (Georgakopulos 67, Kalpakis 84).
OFi 1, Kalamaria 0.
Panseraikos 2, Apollon 0.
PAOK 3, Doxa 1.

HOLLAND

Midweek:
MVV 0, Volendam 1 (Steur 32). Att: 3,500.
RKC 0, PSV 4 (Lerby 17, Van Aerle 41, Povlsen 69, 83). Att: 23,900.
Weekend:
Den Bosch 1 (De Gier 35), Nijmegen 0. Att: 5,000.
Vitesse 1 (Van Arum 48), RKC 1 (Moniz 82). Att: 7,500.
Willem II 2 (Dijkstra 65, Van de Ven 89), Roda 2 (Blattler 10, Groenendijk 76). Att: 6,400.
Utrecht 0, MVV 0. Att: 4,000.
Fortuna 2 (Reijners 42, Brusselers 77), Twente 3 (Nielsen 8, Schmidt 66, 80). Att: 4,000.
Feyenoord 6 (Blinker 53, Keur 63, 68, Krommendijk 69, Lokhoff 72pen, Griga 84), Sparta 1 (Polley 50). Att: 0-0.

ITALY

Cesena 1 (DelBianco 57), Juventus 1 (Bonetti 74). Att: 26,000.
Cremonese 0, Roma 1 (Voller 82). Att: 8,000.
Fiorentina 3 (DiChiara 36, Baggio 48, 89), Verona 1 (Pellegrini 28). Att: 23,000.
Genoa 0, Inter 0 (match abandoned because of a thunderstorm). Att: 22,000.
Lazio 3 (Sosa 6, Amarildo 37, Marcheggiani 39), Ascoli 0. Att: 18,000.
Lecce 1 (Vincze 25), Bologna 0. Att: 25,000.
Napoli 3 (Maradona 28, Carnevale 54, Careca 72), Bari 0. Att: 66,000.
Udinese 0, Atalanta 0. Att: 22,000.
Milan 1 (Massaro 71), Sampdoria 0. Att: 63,000.

PORTUGAL

Porto 3 (Aguas 1, Semedo 65, Oliveira og 89), Boavista 1 (Magalhaes 84).
Benfica 3 (Magnusson 20, Brito 34, Vata Garcia 71), Braga 1 (Moroni 89).
Sporting 3, Feirense 1.
Guimaraes 2, Setubal 1.
Beira Mar 1, Belenenses 0.
Maritimo 0, Chaves 0.
Portimonense 1, Tirsense 1.
Penafiel 0, Uniao 0.

SPAIN

Malaga 0, Mallorca 2 (Chesa og 23, Guillermo 60). Att: 17,000.
Valencia 4 (Nando 8, Tomas 68, Toni 73, 78), Rayo 1 (Rodri 40). Att: 21,000.
Logrones 4 (Aragon 63, Cristobal 72, Rosagro 76, Setien 88), Celta 1 (Mauricio 18). Att: 12,400.
At Madrid 2 (Donato 74, Baltazar 79), Tenerife 0. Att: 21,000.
Gijon 0, Real Sociedad 0. Att: 18,000.
Cadiz 0, Barcelona 4 (Valverde 15, Baquero 49, 55, Koeman 84). Att: 19,000.
Sevilla 3 (Polster 36, 37, Bengoechea 69), Castellon 2 (Alcaniz 55, Pelleti 73). Att: 27,000.
Bilbao 0, Oviedo 0. Att: 19,500.
Zaragoza 1 (Pardeza 37), Osasuna 0. Att: 23,000.
Valladolid 0, Real Madrid 0. Att: 26,600.

WEST GERMANY

Nurnberg 2 (Dechler 5, Sane 67), Hamburg 0. Att: 21,000.
Homburg 0, Koln 1 (Ordenewitz 77pen). Att: 7,000.
Fortuna 0, Karlsruhe 0. Att: 11,000.
Bayern Munich 3 (Kogl 5, Wohlfarth 13, Pflugler 83), Kaiserslautern 0. Att: 16,000.
Leverkusen 1 (Buncol 48), Uerdingen 1 (Steffen 35). Att: 11.000.
St Pauli 0, Stuttgart 0. Att: 20,551.
Werder Bremen 1 (Riedle 83), Bochum 1 (Ridder 30). Att: 14,056.
Borussia Mg 2 (Hochstatter 5, Criens 89), W/Mannheim 0. Att: 16,239.
Borussia Dortmund 0, Eintracht Frankfurt 0. Att: 40,370.

Week ending April 22

AUSTRIA

Sturm Graz 2 (Temm 17, 45), FK Austria 0. Att: 3,000.
Rapid 2 (Keglevits 3, Herzog 85), Aus Salzburg 1 (Kurbasa 75). Att: 2,500.
Admira 3 (Schaub 70, Rodax 72pen, Kern 83), Tirol 1 (Baur 85). Att: 5,000.
St Polten 4 (Rotter 29, Kempes 53, 82, Ramus 55), Vienna 4 (Glatzmayer 36, 37, Steinkogler 58, Balzis 75). Att: 3,200.

BELGIUM

Liege 1 (Nijskens 6), Antwerp 1 (Van Rooij 16). Att: 6,000.
Beveren 3 (Buyens 12, Van Ankeren 67pen, Massage 77), Racing 4 (Wuyts 35, 39, 52, Nijs 59). Att: 4,300.
Lierse 4 (Taibi 14, Zovko 27, 77, Viscaal 82pen), Lokeren 3 (Heijlen 19, Stalmans 24, Etim 47). Att: 4,000.
Gent 2 (Veyt 19, Balenga 79), St Truiden 1 (Beckers 9). Att: 5,500.
Mechelen 2 (Emmers 31, Bosman 81), Beerschot 2 (Brylle 30, Tahamata 63). Att: 7,900.
Charleroi 0, Waregem 2 (Decraeye 36, Mertens 70). Att: 6,000.
Brugge 3 (Farina 20, Creve 66, Ceulemans 87), Anderlecht 0. Att: 30,000.
Ekeren 2 (Brandts 51, Schmoller 77), Cercle 1 (Karacic 50). Att: 3,000.
Kortrijk 0, Standard 1 (Hellers 10). Att: 10,000.

FRANCE

Bordeaux 2 (Senac 66, Lizarazu 79), Lyon 0. Att: 15,000.
Mulhouse 1 (Sliskovic 52), Mulhouse 2 (Cocard 49, Kovacs 83). Att: 6,000.
Paris SG 2 (Calderon 43pen, Vujovic 83), Marseille 1 (Sauzee 17). Att: 46,045.
Cannes 2 (Bellone 10, Fernandez 19), Nantes 1 (Burruchaga 61). Att: 4,937.
Monaco 2 (Diaz 39, 69pen), Toulouse 0. Att: 4,000.
Brest 3 (Martins 11, Buschner 54, Salaun 66), Nice 0. Att: 4,805.
Lille 2 (Angloma 66, Perilleux 77), Metz 1 (Benedet 86). Att: 4,073.
Caen 1 (Dumas 51), Sochaux 1 (Thomas 54). Att: 8,858.
Toulon 1 (Bursac 44), Racing 0. Att: 3,500.
St-Etienne 1 (Courault 64), Montpellier 0. Att: 13,217.

GREECE

Midweek
Cup qtr-fnls: PAOK 5, Aris 2; Levadiakos 2, Bolos 1; Panathinaikos 5, Apollon 3.
Weekend:
Panathinaikos 3 (Hadzithanasiu 18, Saravakos 42pen, K Warzycha 88), Xanthi 1 (Chalkidis 68pen).
Doxa 0, Ethnikos 0.
Apollon 0, Ionikos 0.
AEK 4, Volos 0.
Olynpiakos 2 (Mavrommatis 57, Detari 69pen), Iraklis 2 (Dimopulos 70, Papadopulos 76).
Panionios 0, Larissa 0.
PAOK 2, OFI 0.
Levadiakos 2, Aris 1.
Kalamaria 0, Panseraikos 0.

HOLLAND

Easter Monday:
NEC 2 (Arts 20, Veldman og 53), Willem II 2 (Mallien 47, Van Geel 66). Att: 3,200.
Ajax 6 (Bergkamp 7, 30, Winter 27, 44, 80, Van't Schip 71), Den Bosch 0. Att: 20,500.
Den Haag 2 (Van der Laan 13, 70pen), Groningen 2 (Eykelkamp 29, Van Dijk 44). Att: 6,500.
Sparta 0, Haarlem 1 (Holverda 77). Att: 2,000.
Twente 1 (Nielsen 44), Feyenoord 0. Att: 9,500.
MVV 1 (Lanckohr 23), Fortuna 1 (Farrington 4). Att: 4,000.
PSV 1 (Lerby 35), Utrecht 0. Att: 22,200.
RKC v Volendam rearranged.
Roda 0, Vitesse 1 (Hilgers 51). Att: 7,000.
Willem II 1 (Van der Borgt 10), Ajax 1 (Winter 41). Att: 13,500.
Roda 0, NEC 0. Att: 4,000.
Vitesse 0, Volendam 1 (Berghuis 61). Att: 8,000.
Utrecht 1 (Willaarts 29), RKC 1 (Bogers 59). Att: 4,500.
Fortuna 4 (Farrington 17, 22, 36, Gerets og 51), PSV 1 (Lerby 29). Att: 10,000.
Groningen 2 (Eykelkamp 6, Rooossien 54), Sparta 2 (Houtman 13, Polley 75). Att: 7,100.
Den Bosch 0, Den Haag 1 (Van der Laan 26pen). Att: 3,100.
Feyenoord 2 (Keur 51pen, Scholten 71), MVV 0. Att: 7,036.
Haarlem 0, Twente 1 (Huistra 88pen). Att: 1,000.

ITALY

Ascoli 0, Lecce 2 (Barbas 67, 76). Att: 3,000.
Atalanta 1 (Caniggia 9), Genoa 0. Att: 20,000.
Bari 2 (Perrone 42, Joao Paolo 56), Cremonese 0. Att: 26,000.
Bologna 2 (DeMarchi 46, Bonini 89), Napoli 4 (Careca 3, Maradona 9, Francini 16, Alemao 86). Att: 38,000.
Inter 2 (Berti 24, Bergomi 65), Fiorentina 0. Att: 40,000.
Juventus 1 (Casiraghi 72), Roma 1 (Voller 64). Att: 34,000.
Lazio 0, Udinese 0. Att: 22,000.
Sampdoria 0, Cesena 0. Att: 20,000.
Verona 2 (Sottomayor 61, Pellegrini 88), Milan 1 (Simone 32). Att: 35,000.

PORTUGAL

Uniao 0, Porto 2 (Jaime Magalhaes 40, Mota og 57).
Belenenses 1, Nacional 1.
Boavista 1, Portimonense 1.
Braga 3, Maritimo 0.
Chaves 0, Guimaraes 0.
Estrela 0, Penafiel 1.
Feirense 1 (Joao Luis 65), Benfica 1 (Magnusson 30).
Setubal 0, Beira Mar 0.
Tirsense 1, Sporting 1.

SPAIN

Real Madrid 3 (Hugo Sanchez 26, 54, Losada 66), Logrones 3 (Sarabia 8, Aragon 10, Pedro 60). Att: 76,000.
Barcelona 1 (Salinas 75), Malaga 0. Att: 23,00.
Celta 2 (Mosquera 15, Prieto 67), At Madrid 0. Att: 13,000.
Mallorca 1 (Guillermo 2), Sevilla 1 (Salguero 53). Att: 26,000.
Osasuna 1 (Martin Gonzalez 17), Valladolid 0. Att: 14,300.
Oviedo 2 (Carlos 5, Sarrugarte 9), Zaragoza 2 (Villarova 1, Higuera 55). Att: 19,000.
Castellon 1 (Raul 5), Bilbao 0. Att: 13,000.
Tenerife 1 (Guina 67), Gijon 1 (Narciso 77pen). Att: 21,000.
Rayo 0, Cadiz 1 (Husillos 89). Att: 9,000.
Real Sociedad 2 (Aldridge 1, Alaba 10), Valencia 2 (Ferrando 71, Fenoll 81). Att: 21,000.

WEST GERMANY

Midweek:
Nurnberg 1 (Sane 22), Borussia Dortmund 3 (Zorc 24, Moller 34, 69).
Weekend:
Uerdingen 1 (Zeitsch 43), St Pauli 0. Att: 9,800.
Kaiserslautern 2 (Kuntz 14pen, Labbadia 65), Leverkusen 0. Att: 12,000.
Koln 0, Karlsruhe 5 (Lars Schmidt 16, Schutterle 39, 66, Bogdan 63, Scholl 89). Att: 11,000
W/Mannheim 1 (Buhrer 63), Homburg 2 (Westerbeek 18, Maciel 87). Att: 9,700.
Hamburg 3 (Nando 40, Von Heesen 58, Furtok 60), Borussia Mg 0. Att: 20,000.
Eintracht Frankfurt 5 (Grundel 16, 79, Bein 39, Andersen 46, 89), Nurnberg 1 (Metschies 26). Att: 22,000.
Bochum 2 (Nehl 67, 82), Borussia Dortmund 3 (Breitzke 21, Moller 60, Helmer 70). Att: 40,000.
Stuttgart 3 (Rasmussen 9, Frontzeck 33pen, O Schmaler 55), Werder Bremen 1 (Votava 66). Att: 24,700.
Bayern Munich 0, Fortuna 0. Att: 25,000.

Week ending April 29

AUSTRIA

Midweek
Cup, semi-finals: FK Austria 1 (Aigner 27pen), Vienna 0. Rapid 3 (Kranjcar 32, 53, Pfeifenberger 73), Spitt

LEAGUE TABLES AND RESULTS

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CFKA Sredets	24	15	7	2	69	21	37
Etur	24	12	6	6	37	23	30
Sp Levski	24	10	9	5	45	30	29
Pirin	24	10	8	6	32	25	28
Lok Sofia	24	12	3	9	41	35	27
Sliven	24	11	4	9	36	32	26
Slavia	24	8	10	6	23	24	26
Botev Plovdiv	24	11	3	10	34	32	25
Chernomorets	24	9	6	9	29	28	24
Beroe	24	8	7	9	36	38	23
Lok Gorna	24	8	7	9	20	26	23
Lok Plov	24	6	9	9	25	36	21
Dounav	24	6	8	10	20	30	20
Hebur	24	7	5	12	21	34	19
Cherno More	24	5	3	16	23	49	13
Botev Vratsa	24	4	5	15	18	46	13

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	36	21	10	5	71	36	73
Aston Villa	37	21	6	10	54	35	69
Tottenham	37	18	6	13	57	46	60
Arsenal	36	17	7	12	50	35	58
Everton	37	17	7	13	54	43	58
Chelsea	37	15	12	10	55	49	57
Southampton	36	15	10	11	69	59	55
Norwich	37	13	13	11	42	40	52
Wimbledon	35	12	15	8	44	37	51
QPR	37	13	11	13	43	41	50
Coventry	37	14	7	16	38	53	49
Nottm Forest	36	13	9	14	48	47	48
Man City	37	12	11	14	41	50	47
Derby Co	36	13	7	16	41	36	46
Man Utd	35	12	8	15	45	43	44
Crystal Pal	36	12	8	16	39	64	44
Sheff Wed	37	11	10	18	35	48	43
Luton	37	9	13	15	40	55	40
Charlton	37	7	9	21	31	56	30
Millwall	37	5	11	21	38	62	26

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Panathinaikos	29	19	8	2	63	28	46
PAOK	29	19	5	5	47	21	43
AEK	29	17	8	4	55	17	42
Olympiakos	29	17	8	4	50	26	42
Heraklis	29	12	10	7	39	30	34
OFI	29	13	4	11	39	34	30
Aris	29	9	11	9	31	33	29
Larissa	29	9	10	10	30	32	28
Panionios	29	8	11	10	41	47	27
Doxa	29	8	9	12	30	32	25
Apollon	29	8	10	12	29	32	24
Levadiakos	29	11	6	12	30	34	24
Panseraikos	29	8	8	13	30	34	24
Kalamaria	29	6	11	12	27	32	23
Xanthi	29	9	5	15	28	47	23
Ionikos	29	6	9	14	23	46	21
Volos	29	8	2	19	27	57	18
Ethnikos	29	5	5	19	16	47	15

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax	32	19	9	4	64	20	47
PSV Eind	32	19	7	6	91	35	45
FC Twente	32	15	10	7	42	38	40
Vitesse	32	14	10	8	47	30	38
Roda	32	13	12	7	48	36	38
Volendam	32	14	9	9	41	34	37
Fort. Sittard	32	11	14	7	37	31	36
RKC	32	12	11	9	42	41	35
Groningen	32	9	15	8	44	40	33
Den Haag	30	12	7	11	55	55	31
Feyenoord	32	8	12	12	45	44	28
Sparta	32	11	6	15	46	58	28
Utrecht	32	8	11	13	26	42	27
MVV	32	7	12	13	35	55	26
Willem II	32	6	12	14	38	48	24
NEC	31	5	14	13	31	54	24
Den Bosch	31	5	13	14	24	45	23
Haarlem	31	4	6	21	20	69	14

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MTK-VM	24	16	4	4	38	16	52
Ujpesti Dozsa	24	15	3	6	32	15	48
Ferencvaros	24	12	5	7	40	24	41
Pecs	24	11	7	6	30	17	40
Siefok	24	8	9	7	26	26	33
Tatabanya	24	10	3	11	17	23	33
Veszprem	24	7	10	7	22	20	31
Videoton	24	7	10	7	20	22	31
Vasas	24	8	7	9	28	33	31
Bekescaba	24	8	7	9	21	27	31
Raba Eto	24	6	10	8	25	22	28
BP Honved	24	7	6	11	24	31	27
Vacs	24	5	11	8	21	26	26
Debrecen	24	5	10	9	16	28	25
Haladas	24	6	6	12	27	36	24
Csepel	24	2	10	12	21	42	16

Due to the demand on space, letters page has been held over for next month's issue.

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Napoli	33	20	9	4	56	31	49
Milan	33	21	5	7	52	27	47
Internazionale	32	17	9	6	52	28	43
Juventus	33	14	14	5	53	34	42
Sampdoria	33	15	11	7	43	26	41
Roma	33	14	12	7	43	38	40
Atalanta	33	12	11	10	35	39	35
Bologna	33	9	15	9	27	34	33
Lazio	33	8	15	10	34	32	31
Bari	33	6	19	8	34	33	31
Lecce	33	10	8	15	27	43	28
Genoa	32	5	16	11	25	31	26
Fiorentina	33	6	14	13	37	41	26
Cesena	33	5	16	12	25	36	26
Udinese	33	5	15	13	33	48	25
Verona	33	6	13	14	27	43	25
Cremonese	33	5	13	25	47	23	
Ascoli	33	4	13	16	20	41	21

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Porto	29	24	4	1	65	13	52
Benfica	29	19	9	1	69	15	47
Guimaraes	29	15	10	4	38	21	40
Sporting	29	15	10	4	36	21	40
Setubal	29	13	8	8	36	27	34
Belenenses	29	14	4	11	29	28	32
Chaves	29	9	12	8	29	34	30
Beira Mar	29	10	7	12	19	31	27
Amadora	29	9	8	12	31	26	26
Boavista	29	10	7	12	40	30	26
Tirsense	29	6	14	9	18	26	26
Braga	29	8	9	12	28	33	25
Maritimo	29	4	14	11	19	36	22
Uniao	29	5	11	13	21	38	21
Penafiel	29	7	7	15	20	44	21
Nacional	29	4	12	13	24	42	20
Portimonense	29	5	7	17	21	46	17
Feirense	29	4	8	17	22	52	16

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	35	20	10	5	47	18	50
Hearts	35	16	11	8	53	34	43
Aberdeen	35	16	10	9	53	32	42
Celtic	35	10	14	11	36	34	34
Dundee U	35	11	12	12	36	39	34
Hibernian	35	12	9	14	33	40	33
Motherwell	35	10	12	13	41	46	32
Dunfermline	35	11	7	17	35	49	29
St. Mirren	35	10	9	18	28	48	29
Dundee	35	5	14	16	40	63	24

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	35	24	9	2	97	33	57
Barcelona	35	22	4	9	78	34	48
Atl. Madrid	35	19	9	7	48	29	47
Valencia	35	17	13	5	59	40	47
Sevilla	35	18	6	11	62	42	42
Real Sociedad	35	14	13	8	41	33	41
Osasuna	35	14	12	9	41	36	40
Logrones	35	17	5	13	45	44	39
Real Mallorca	35	11	15	9	36	33	37
Real Oviedo	35	11	14	10	36	40	36
Bilbao	35	10	14	11	32	33	34
Real Zaragoza	35	13	8	14	46	51	34
Sporting Gijon	35	10	10	15	33	32	30
Castellon	35	8	13	14	26	43	29
R. Valladolid	35	8	11	16	29	39	27
Tenerife	35	8	10	17	40	55	26
Cadiz	35	9	6	20	25	63	24
Malaga	35	7	9	19	19	48	23
Celta	35	5	12	18	23	45	22
Rayo V	35	5	7	23	28	70	17

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Red Star	29	19	5	5	66	28	41
Dinamo	29	16	10	3	52	16	40
Hajduk	29	15	3	11	44	30	32
Rad	29	14	4	11	36	28	30
Partizan	29	15	3	11	45	39	30
Sloboda	29	14	4	11	39	37	28
Zeljeznicar	29	12	5	12	29	33	27
Rijeka	29	11	6	12	22	29	27
Osijek	29	12	4	13	27	39	26
Buducnost	29	11	7	11	22	27	25
Spartak	29	11	4	14	24	34	25
Olimpija	29	11	6	12	41	34	24
Vojvodina	29	11	5	13	36	43	24
Radnicki	29	10	6	13	33	44	22
Sarajevo	29	10	4	15	36	43	21
Velez	29	9	6	14	31	40	21
Borac	29	9	6	14	23	35	21
Vardar	29	6	2	21	25	52	13

GOLDEN BOOT LEADERS

35 – Hugo Sanchez (Real Madrid)
34 – Rodax (Admira Vienna), Polster (Sevilla).
29 - Magnusson (Benfica).
28 – Papin (Marseille).
27 – Stoichkov (CFKA Sofia).
26 – Lineker (Tottenham).

Thursday, March 1

Mar 1 = Kuwait - Gulf Cup
Oman 0
Bahrain 0
Att: 6,000. **Ref:** Enrico (Chile)
Oman: A Salem - Jamis, Z Salem (Nassib), Hilal,Haykal (Saad) - Quoraich, Khalifa, Sayed, Hamid - Hamdane, Abdennour.
Bahrain: Sultane - Khalfan, J Aid, Mahmud, Mohammed - Issa (Salah), M Aid, Swar - Marzouk, Salem, Hayki.

Friday, March 2

Mar 2 = Algiers - African Nations' Cup finals, Gp A
Algeria 5 (Madjer 37, 57, Menad 69, 72, Amani 89)
Nigeria 1 (Okocha 82)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Takada (Jpn)

Mar 2 = Algiers - African Nations' Cup finals, Gp A
Ivory Coast 3 (Traore 53, 59pen, A Magui 73)
Egypt 1 (Adel 74)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 700. **Ref:** Hafiz (Tanz)

Saturday, March 3

Mar 3 = Annaba - African Nations' Cup finals, Gp B
Cameroon 0
Zambia 1 (Chikabala 57)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Jouini (Tun)

Mar 3 = Annaba - African Nations' Cup finals, Gp B
Senegal 0
Kenya 0
Att: 10,000. **Ref:** Farissa Traore (Mali)

Monday, March 5

Mar 5 = Algiers - African Nations' Cup finals, Gp A
Egypt 0
Nigeria 1 (Yekini 8)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 65,000.

Mar 5 = Algiers - African Nations' Cup finals, Gp A
Algeria 3 (Menad 23, El Ouazani 81, Oudjani 82)
Ivory Coast 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 45,000.

Tuesday, March 6

Mar 6 = Annaba - African Nations' Cup finals, Gp B
Zambia 1 (Makwaza 42)
Kenya 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000.

Mar 6 = Annaba - African Nations' Cup finals, Gp B
Cameroon 0
Senegal 2 (Diallo 44, Ndao 55)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 15,000.

Thursday, March 8

Mar 8 = Algiers - African Nations' Cup finals, Gp A
Nigeria 1 (Yekini 3)
Ivory Coast 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 80,000.

Mar 8 = Algiers - African Nations' Cup finals, Gp A
Egypt 0
Algeria 2 (Amani 39, Said 43)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 80,000. **Ref:** Cadressen (Mau)

Friday, March 9

Mar 9 = Annaba - African Nations' Cup finals, Gp B
Zambia 0
Senegal 0
Att: 10,000. **Ref:** El Dine (Eg)

Mar 9 = Annaba - African Nations' Cup finals, Gp B
Cameroon 2 (Maboang 28, 69)
Kenya 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Jasseh (Gam)

Mar 9 = Kuwait - Gulf Cup
Kuwait 6
U A E 1
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 11,000.

Saturday, March 10

Mar 10 = Tampa - intl friendly
United States 2 (Caliguiri 29, Murray 67)
Finland 1 (Tarkkio 52)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Saras (CR)
United States: Keller - Banks, Doyle, Windischmann, Armstrong (Krumpe 62). Caliguiri. Stollmeyer, Ramos (Covone 83), Harkes, Murray, Wynalda.
Finland: Jakonen - Vuorela, Europaeus, Ollila (Houtamaki 46), Sastamoinem, Litmanen, Himgren, Tauriainen (Turunen 75), Tarkkio, Lius, Heikkinen.
A mixed Finland side of experience and youth lost out in stamina terms in the closing stages on what was, for them, a pre-season fixture. This was the Americans' first senior victory over a European national team since they won 2-0 in Luxembourg in October, 1980.

Monday, March 12

Mar 12 = Algiers - African Nations' Cup semi-final
Algeria 2 (Menad 5, Amani 60)
Senegal 1 (Cisse 20)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 80,000. **Ref:** Takada (Jpn)
Algeria: Osmani - Benhalima, Megharia, Serrar, Adjas (Ait Abderrahmane 68) - El-Ouzani, Amani, Saib - Madjer, Oudjani, Menad.
Senegal: Seck - Pape Fall, M Diallo, R Mendy, Diagne, A Mendy - Cisse (Coly 79), Sagna, Mdiaye - A Diallo, Bocande (Ndao 68)
Hosts Algeria won through to the Final of 'their' Nations' Cup thanks to a goal in each half. Djamel Menad comfortably converted a chance after only five minutes. But Senegal earned their 20th-minute leveller from Adama Cisse - though his 20-yard drive was deflected into the net by a defender. Algeria dominated the second half after Senegal lost skipper Jules Bocande, their attacking inspiration, through injury. Senegal keeper Charles Seck had kept the scores level with some superb saves - notably to one spectacular effort from Madjer then from another by Oudjani. But on the hour Madjer and Oudjani worked together to produce the opening for Djamel Amani's match-winner.

Mar 12 = Algiers - African Nations' Cup semi-final
Nigeria 2 (Okechukwu 18, Yekini 77)
Zambia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** B Sene (Sen)
Nigeria: Agu - Uwe, Okechukwu, Anijekwu, Semitoje - Adesina, Kpakor, Okocha (Ipaye 57) - Omokachi (Ogunlana 68), Yekini, Elahor.
Zambia: Chabala - Soko, Chomba, E Mulenga, Changwe - Makinka, Msiska (Malitoli 73), Momba, Mwita (P Mwanza 73) - Makwaza, Chikabala.
Nigeria reached their first Final since 1984 with this victory, thanks to a goal in each half.

Thursday, March 15

Mar 15 = Algiers - African Nations' Cup, third place play-off
Zambia 1 (Chikabala 73)
Senegal 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,000

Friday, March 16

Mar 16 = Algiers - African Nations' Cup Final
Algeria 1 (Cherif Oudjani 38)
Nigeria 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 80,000.
Algeria: Demani - Benhalima, Kegharia, Serrar, Ait-Aberrahmance - El Ouzani (Neftah 86), Amani, Saib - Madjer, Oudjani (Rahim 89), Menad.
Nigeria: Agui-kechukwu - Anijekwu, Semitoje, Uwe (Aminu 12), Adesina, Ypakor, Oliha, Ogunlana (Omokachi) 67.
A goal from French-based Cherif Oudjani, who plays for Sochaux, brought Algeria their first African Nations' Cup - to the delight of their own capacity crowd in Algiers. This was Nigeria's second successive defeat in the Final - runners-up to Cameroon in Morocco two years ago. But this was a much tighter match than the teams' meeting in the first round of the finals, when Algeria opened competition with a 5-1 victory.

Tuesday, March 20

Mar 20 = Los Angeles - intl friendly
Mexico 2 (Davalos 3, Pelaez 9)
Uruguay 1 (Edison Suarez 14)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Majid Jay (US)
Mexico: Pineda - Herrera, Rodriguez, Vaca, Esparza, Davalos, Aguirre, Negrete (Medina 63), Sosa (Vasquez 60), Pelaez (Lira 75), Guzman (Pacheco 85).
Uruguay: Alvez - Pintos Saldanha, Goncalves (Revelez 57), De Leon, Dominguez, Pereira, Correa, Suarez, Cedres, Fonseca, Castro.
Mexico, in one of their rare internationals since their competitive ban, deservedly beat a largely home-based Uruguayan side thanks to a high-speed start with two goals in the first ten minutes.

Mar 20 = Budapest - intl friendly
Hungary 2 (Tamas Petres 39, Zsolt Limperger 74)
United States 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Holzmann (Aus)
Hungary: Brockhauser - Monos (Csucsansky 80), A Pinter, Palaczky (Lakatos 68), Meszoly, Limperger, Mariasi, G Bognar (Balog 80), Jovan (Fischer 46), Duro, Petres (Simon 68).
USA: Meola - Windischmann, Doyle, Banks, Stollmeyer (Krumpe 87), Murray (Bliss 68), Ramos, Harkes, Caligiuri, Vermes, Wynalda (Sullivan 46).
The US made a low-key start to their European tour as experienced Gyorgy Bognar took control in midfield and opened the way to goal for both Petres in the first half and Limperger in the second. The nearest the Americans came to a goal was midway through the first half when Stollmeyer volleyed against the bar and headed the rebound into the hands of keeper Istvan Brockhauser. In the 78th minute Ramos pushed a free kick square and Vermes fired narrowly wide.

Tuesday, March 27

Mar 27 = Belfast - intl friendly
N Ireland 2 (Jimmy Quinn 43, Kevin Wilson 87)
Norway 3 (Bengt Skammelsrud 54, Jorn Andersen 56, Erland Johnsen 89)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** King (Wal)
N Ireland: Kee - Hill, Donaghy, McClelland (Dowie 18), Taggart, McCreery (Rogan 19), D Wilson, Quinn, Clarke, K Wilson, Black.
Norway: Thorstvedt - H Hansen, Johnsen, Hallvorsen, Halle, Lokken, Ahlsen, Gulbrandsen, Skammesrud, Andersen, Fjortoft (Jahn-Ivar Jakobsen 79).
Norway were the better team but they left it very late to prove the point. Quinn shot the Irish ahead two minutes before the interval against the run of play but Norway levelled when new Irish keeper Paul Kee had only parried a Guldbrandsen shot. Jorn Andersen, Eintracht Frankfurt's Bundesliga top scorer, put Norway ahead only two minutes later. When Kevin Wilson scored his first goal for the Irish in the 87th minute they appeared to have saved the day. But in the last minute Wilson's Chelsea team-mate, Erland Johnsen, headed home a Hugo Hansen free kick for the winner.

Wednesday, March 28

March 28 = Malaga - intl friendly
Spain 2 (Manolo 1, Butragueno 33)
Austria 3 (Hortnagl 46, Polster 65, Rodax 89)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 26,000. **Ref:** D'Elia (Italy)
Spain: Zubizarreta - Chendo (Quique Sanchez 47), Jimenez, Amdrinua, Sanchis, Roberto (Rafa Paz 57), Manolo (Julio Salinas 71), Michel, Butragueno (Pardeza 37), Martin Vazquez (Gorriz 57), Villarroya.
Austria: Lindenberger (Konrad 46) - Keglevits, Pecl (Russ 46), Pfeffer, Aigner, Zsak (Streiter 46), A Ogris (Rodax 46), Artner, Polster, Schoettel (Reisinger 77), Hortnagl.
The more substitutes came into the game, the more Spain lost control. After leading 2-0 at half-time they lost 3-2 to a last-minute goal from Gerhard Rodax, the Admira striker who is currently second behind Hugo Sanchez in the European Golden Boot race. A slip by Austria goalkeeper Lindenberger presented Manolo with an opening Spanish goal after only a minute and skipper Emilio Butragueno doubled Spain's lead after 33 minutes before going off with a twisted ankle after a clash with Aigner. Austria hit back with a Hortnagl goal immediately after the interval. Spain-based Toni Polster - he plays for Sevilla - shot an equaliser and was inches wide with another effort. In the 67th minute Michel thought he had restored Spain's lead, but his 'goal' was disallowed for offside. The match was into its closing seconds when Rodax set off on a solo run for Austria's surprise winner.

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

Mar 28 = East Berlin - intl friendly
East Germany 3 (Ulf Kirsten 16, 30, 66)
United States 2 (Peter Vermes 40, Bruce Murray 85)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Wiesel (WG)
E Germany: Heyne - Peschke, Herzog, Schuster, Lindner, Buttner, Sammer, Ernst (Minkwitz 75), Steinmann, Kirsten (Rossler 70), Thom (Doll 65).
US: Meola - Trittschuh, Doyle (Armstrong 46), Windischmann, Banks (Krumpe 76), Caliguiri, Ramos, Harkes (Wynalda 87), Stollmeyer, Sullivan (Murray 56), Vermes.
East Germany set the pace throughout in their first senior match against the Americans. Hendrik Herzog paved the way for Kirsten's first goal, scored with a diving header. Dresden team-mate Mathias Sammer created Kirsten's second after robbing Tab Ramos. But Ramos went some way towards making amends when he provided the corner from which Peter Vermes pulled a goal back. Kirsten completed his hat-trick in the second half after catching Meola out of goal. Substitute Bruce Murray pulled back one late goal for the US with a low drive from a free kick. Apart from Kirsten, Sammer and Steinmann were the pick of the East Germans.

Mar 28 = Cairo - intl friendly
Egypt 1 (Ahmed El Kas 30)
Rumania 3 (Daniel Timofte 18, 22, Balint 87)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Kevalas (Gr)
Egypt: Shobeir - Ibrahim Hassan, Yaken, Hani Ramzy, Youssef - Abdelghani, Abu Zeid (Soleiman 66), Abdul Ahmed, Mayhoub - A Ramzy (Kemal Fauzy 39), Hossam Hassan.
Rumania: Iliac - D Petrescu, Andone, Rednic, T Cristea - Lupu (I Dumitrescu 81), Gh Popescu, Hagi (Mateut 71), Timofte I - Lacatus, Balint.
Rumania did not make certain of victory until Gavrila Balint struck with just three minutes remaining in this warm-up between two of the World Cup contenders.

Mar 28 = Wembley - intl friendly
England 1 (Gary Lineker 35)
Brazil 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 80,000. **Ref:** Peschel (EG)
England: Shilton (Woods 11) - Stevens, Walker, Butcher, Pearce - Waddle, McMahon, Platt, Barnes - Beardsley (Gascoigne 78), Lineker.
Brazil: Taffarel - Jorginho, Mozer (Bismarck 77), Mauro Galvao, Ricardo Raimundo, Branco - Dunga, Silas (Muller 58), Valdo - Bebeto (Aldair 77), Careca.
England scored their first Wembley victory over Brazil in 34 years thanks to a soft header by Lineker after Barnes had flicked on with his head a lewft-wing corner. The defence which Brazil were supposed to have tightened up was all over the place, with Lineker unmarked in front of goal. At the end of the match England carried off the Varig Cup while Brazil hurried from the stadium, furious that referee Peschel had denied them a 67th-minute equalising chance. Substitute Muller's shot appeared to have been handled behind the goal-line by defender Stuart Pearce but the referee awarded neither goal nor penalty - even after consulting his linesman. In the end England were perhaps fortunate to hold their lead to the final whistle.

Mar 28 = Athens - intl friendly
Greece 2 (Stelios Manolas 64 and 77pen)
Israel 1 (Sinai 76)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,000.
Two second-half goals from sweeper Manolas brought Greece their victory in front of another paltry crowd dotted around the Athens Olympic stadium. Greece were unlucky after 31 minutes when Yotis Tsaluhidis shot against a post. So it was not until the second half that Manolas opened the scoring with a shot from outside the penalty box which surprised Israel keeper Yaakov Asiag. Moshe Sinai equalised from a free kick but Greece instantly regained the lead from a penalty by Manolas after Tsiantakis was fouled by Marco Barboul.

Mar 28 = Budapest - intl friendly
Hungary 1 (Attila Pinter 39pen)
France 3 (Eric Cantona 29 and 67, Franck Sauzee 72)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 9,000. **Ref:** Diakonowicz (Pol)
Hungary: Brockhauser - Monos, A Pinter, Palaczky, Meszoly, Limpberger, Mariasi, G Bognar (Duro 61), K Kovacs (Iovan 61), Detari (Balogh 79), Petres (Fischer 52).
France: Martini - Amoros (Durand 46), Silvestre, Casoni, Sauzee (Blanc 79), Pardo, Perez, Fernandez (B Boli 70), Tibeuf (Divert 63), Ferreri, Cantona.
Controversial Eric Cantona scored twice more to inspire a comfortable victory for visiting France. Sauzee lobber over the Magyar defence for Cantona's first. But Hungary equalised with a Pinter penalty after French keeper Martini brought down Kalman Kovacs - whom he knows from the French league, where Kovacs plays for Auxerre. It was after Kovacs was substituted in the second half that Hungary faded from the game. Cantona headed France back into the lead a minute later and then Sauzee volleyed home a visiting third. The French team included Luis Fernandez, the argumentative midfielder who had been missing from the national side for almost two years.

Mar 28 = Esch-sur-Alzette - intl friendly
Luxembourg 1 (Theo Malget 37)
Iceland 2 (Petur Petursson 14, Olafur Thordarsson 26)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 400.
A rare away win for Iceland in their first match of the year.

Mar 28 = Lodz - intl friendly
Poland 0
Yugoslavia 0
Att: 20,000. **Ref:** Molnar (Hun)
Poland: Wandzik (Bako 46) - Czachowski, Szewczyk (Pisz 77), Kaczmarek, Wdowczyk, Ziober, Urban, Tarasiewicz, K Warzycha (R Warzycha 88), Dziekanowski, Kosecki.
Yugoslavia: Ivkovic - Stanojkovic, Spasic, Vulic (Kanatlarovski 46), Hadzibegic, Jozic, Dragoljub Brnovic, Susic, Pancev, Stojkovic, Zlatko Vujovic.
Dragan Stojkovic, back after injury, came closest to breaking the deadlock ten minutes from the end when he hit the Polish bar after an exchange of passes with Vujovic. Poland's best chance was wasted earlier by Celtic's Dariusz Dziekanowski, who shot straight at Ivkovic when he had the goal at his mercy.

Mar 28 = Hampden - intl friendly
Scotland 1 (Stewart McKimmie 32)
Argentina 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 51,537. **Ref:** Houben (Hol)
Scotland: Leighton - Gough, McKimmie, Levein, McLeish, MacLeod, Bett (Aitken 89), McCall, McInally (McClair 74), McStay, Fleck.
Argentina: Pumpido - Batista, Bouza, Sensini, Fabbri, Ruggeri (Monzon), Calderon, Basualdo, Burruchaga (Troglio 49), Valdano (Balbo 46), Caniggia.
Diego Maradona had a yen to miss this match - several millions of them, in fact - and without their flyaway inspiration (in Japan for a promotional deal) the World Cup-holders looked insipid. This defeat stretched their goalless run to eight games and meant they had won only three times since the start of 1988. Scotland seized victory thanks to the opportunism of fullback McKimmie. Having failed to find the net with his club, Aberdeen, for five years, he shot home the match-winner after McInally flicked on a MacLeod cross.

Mar 28 = Kiev - intl friendly
Soviet Union 2 (Oleg Protasov 10pen, Vladimir Liuty 80)
Holland 1 (Ronald Koeman 69pen)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Puhl (Hun)
Sov Union: Dasayev - Gorlukovich, Khidiatulin, Kuznetsov, Rodionov (Yakovenko 46), Rats, Aleinikov (Zigmantovich 46), Litovchenko, Cherenkov, Protasov (Liuty 61), Borodyuk.
Holland: Van Breukelen - Sturing, Rutjes, R Koeman, Fraser, Wouters, Richard Witschge, Van't Schip (Laamers 82), Bosman (Van Loen 56), Kieft, Peeper (Eikelkamp 22).
The Soviets took friendly vengeance for their European Final defeat of 1988 against a weakened Dutch side. None of the Milan trio were available. Van Breukelen flatted Protasov after ten minutes and the Kiev striker got up to convert the penalty for a first goal. A penalty against Khidiatulin for a hotly-disputed handball offence, provided Ronald Koeman with the spot-kick chance for a second half equaliser. But it was then some slipshod defensive work by Koeman which allowed Liuty to snatch an 80th-minute Soviet winner. The Dutch team was again in the charge of Nol de Ruiter, in the continuing 'convalescent' absence of the embattled Thys Libregts. More bad injury news for Holland: new midfielder Marcel Peeper was taken to hospital after only 22 minutes suffering from a suspected leg fracture.

Mar 28 = Dublin - intl friendly
Rep Ireland 1 (Slaven 86)
Wales 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 41,350. **Ref:** Gunn (Eng)
Rep Ireland: Bonner - Morris, Staunton (Hughton 67), McCarthy, Morn (O'Leary 75), Whelan (Sheedy 46), Townsend, Byrne, Slaven, Cascarino, Sheridan.
Wales: Southall - Hall, Phillips, Nicholas, Aizlewood, Melville, Maguire, Horne, Rush, Allen, Davies.
Scottish-born Bernie Slaven marked his Irish debut with the winning goal after a Sheedy penalty had been parried by his Everton team-mate, Southall. It was also a foul on Slaven which provoked the award. Otherwise

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

CONTINUED

the qualities which have marked him out as a potential World Cup star. He scored Rumania's first two goals and made their third. Hagi's first, after five minutes, saw him convert a right-wing cross from Sabau. His second goal came from the penalty spot after Raducioiu had been fouled in front of goal - having been provided with the opening by Hagi himself. Hagi created goal No 3 for Lacatus just before the interval. Israel, missing their European-based stars and also missed a couple of sharp chances to Sinai and Davidi. But they scored a consolation through substitute Aharoni after 73 minutes. One of Rumania's substitutes, Balint, then just reminded everyone who was really in charge of the game.

April 25 – Dublin - intl friendly
Rep Ireland 1 (Steve Staunton 60)
Soviet Union 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 43,990. **Ref:** Kleinitas (US)
Rep Ireland: Peyton - Morris (Houghton 73), McCarthy, O'Leary (Moran 77), Staunton - Waddock, McGrath, Townsend Sheedy - Quinn, Kelly.
Sov Union: Uvarov - Fokhin, Kuznetsov, Khidiatulin, Gorlukovich, Tishenko, Zigmantovich, Broshin (Cherenkov 76), Borodyk, Liuty (Savichev 70), Belanov.
The winning goal was Staunton's first for his country and minutes later the Irish might have had a second when Uvarov blocked a Townsend drive. Few secrets were given away with players worried as much about avoiding injury on a poor pitch as with their game. The Soviets lined up what was mostly a B team but played some neat football and keeper Uvarov made several good saves. Interesting to note an international comeback for theformer European Footballer of the Year, Igor Belanov.

April 25 – Glasgow/Hampden - intl friendly
Scotland 0
East Germany 1 (Thomas Doll 73pen)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 21,868. **Ref:** Midgley (Eng)
Scotland: Goram - Gillespie (McStay 57), MacLeod, Levein, McLeish, Gough, McAllister, McCall, Durie (McCoist 68), Johnston, Collins.
E Germany: Brautigam - Boger, Peschke, Lindner, Schuster, Sammer, Herzog, Stubner (Buttner 85), Kirsten, Ernst, Doll.
A disappointing result for Scots coach Andy Roxburgh. As worrying as anything was the uncertain form at the back of Alex McLeish, who had been so dominating against Argentina. It was McLeish who pulled down Ulf Kirsten to concede the penalty from which Thomas Doll shot the winner.

April 25 – Stockholm - intl friendly
Sweden 4 (Tomas Brolin 19, 25, Klas Ingesson 54, 73)
Wales 2 (Dean Saunders 14, 59)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 13,981.
Sweden: Ravelli - R Nilsson, Hysen, P Larsson, Ljung - Engqvist, Limpar, Ingesson, S Schwarz - Brolin, Magnusson (Pettersson 69).
Wales: Southall - Maguire, Phillips, Bowen, Melville, Laws, Nicholas, Horne, Hodges, M Allen, Saunders.
Sweden manager Olle Nordin had been concerned about his team's failure to fulfil their attacking potential. New boy Brolin took the challenge seriously and twice converted assists from Mats Magnusson to make a late claim for a World Cup place. In the end Sweden could have scored five but Stefan Schwarz missed a penalty awarded for a foul on Limpar.

April 25 – Stuttgart - intl friendly
West Germany 3 (Lothar Matthaus 60, Rudi Voller 64, Klinsmann 75)
Uruguay 3 (Carlos Aguilera 49, Santiago Ostolaza 73, Felipe Daniel Revelez 78)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 35,000.
W Germany: Illgner (Aumann 46) - Berthold, Kohler, Buchwald, Brehme - Hassler, Littbarski, Matthaus, Bein (Thon 68) - Klinsmann, Voller.
Uruguay: Pereira - Herrera, Revelz, De Leon, Dominguez - Ostolaza, Perdomo, Ruben Perreira, Paz (Fonseca 70) - Aguilera (Sergio Martinez 79), Sosa.
West Germany's uncertain defensive tactics were exposed by the surprisingly lively South Americans. Beckenbauer had considered playing "English style," without a sweeper. Then he changed his mind and used Berthold as a cautious sweeper instead. After a quiet first half the game exploded spectacularly into life four minutes after the break when Aguilera headed Uruguay in front. Matthaus equalised from a free kick which rolled through the legs of keeper Eduardo Pereira. Then Brehme crossed for Voller to head the Germans into the lead. Ostolaza headed Uruguay level but another Pereira blunder presented Klinsmann with a German third. It took poor German covering then to allow Revelez a free header for the final goal of the night.

European Under-21 Championship

Quarter-finals:
21. 02. 90 Italy v Spain 3-1
29. 03. 90 Spain v Italy 1-0
Italy 3-2 on agg
14. 03. 90 Czechoslovakia v Sweden 1-2
28. 03. 90 Sweden v Czechoslovakia 5-0
Sweden 6-1 on agg
14. 03. 90 Sov Union v West Germany 1-1
28. 03. 90 West Germany v Sov Union 2-1
Sov Union 3-2 on agg, aet
14. 03. 90 Yugoslavia v Bulgaria 2-0
28. 03. 90 Bulgaria v Yugoslavia 0-1
Yugoslavia 3-0 on agg
Semi-finals:
25. 04. 90 Sweden v Sov Union 1-1
11. 04. 90 Yugoslavia v Italy 0-0

ARGENTINA : National A Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
River Plate	27	14	8	5	30	13	36
Independiente	27	12	10	5	40	25	34
Rosario	27	12	10	5	33	25	34
Gimnasia	27	10	9	8	23	19	29
Boca Juniors	26	7	15	4	33	26	29
Union Santa Fe	27	8	13	6	32	29	29
Platense	27	10	7	10	27	27	27
Newell's	27	7	13	7	27	28	27
Racing	27	7	13	7	24	26	27
Talleres	27	8	12	7	31	27	26
Velez Sarsfield	27	8	10	9	29	28	26
Dep. Espanol	27	11	4	12	32	34	26
Arg. Juniors	27	9	10	8	28	28	25
Estudiantes	27	5	15	7	26	28	25
FC Oeste	27	5	14	8	14	16	24
San Lorenzo	27	7	10	10	28	36	24
Dep. Mandiyu	26	6	11	9	22	29	23
Instituto	27	7	9	11	24	33	23
Racing Cordoba	27	7	8	12	22	31	22
Chaco	27	6	8	13	29	46	20

(x) Forfeit two points.
Worst relegation averages – bottom two relegated: Dep.Mandiyu 0,87; FC Oeste 0,84; Racing Cordoba 0,83; Instituto Cordoba 0,76; Chaco For Ever 0,74.

VENEZUELA : First Division

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Maritimo	22	11	9	2	31
Tachira	22	12	6	4	30
Minerven	22	12	6	4	30
Univ. de los Andes	22	10	6	6	26
Caracas FC	22	9	7	6	25
Pepeganga	21	7	9	5	23
Zamora	22	7	9	6	23
Mineros	21	7	7	5	21
Portuguesa	22	6	9	7	21
Trujillanos	22	6	7	9	19
Estudiantes	22	4	11	6	19
Maracaibo	22	7	5	10	19
Italia	21	6	6	9	18
Lara	22	4	7	11	15
Internacional	21	3	7	11	13
Galicia	21	2	7	12	11

ECUADOR : First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	3	3	0	0	13	2	6
Dep. Cuenca	3	2	1	0	7	2	5
Emelec	2	2	0	0	5	0	4
Dep. Quito	3	2	0	1	8	2	4
Tecnico Univ	3	2	0	1	6	4	4
Nacional	3	1	1	1	5	4	3
Delfin	2	1	0	1	3	2	2
Liga Dep. Univ	3	1	0	2	3	7	2
Aucas	3	1	0	2	4	10	2
Macara	3	1	0	2	2	10	2
Filanbanco	3	0	0	3	1	7	0
Juventus	3	0	0	3	2	9	0

PARAGUAY : First Division

After 5 games: 1) Cerro Porteno 10 points; 2) Sol de America, Libertad, Guarani 6; 5) River Plate, San Lorenzo, Sportivo Luqueno 5; 8) Colegiales 4; 9) Olimpia 3 – 12 teams participate.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICAN LEAGUE TABLES

COSTA RICA : First Division

1) Saprissa 35 points; 2) Alajuelense 31; 3) Uruguay 24; 4) Cartagines 23; 5) Herediano, Puntarenas 22; 7) San Carlos 21; 8) Limon 20; 9) Guanacaste 16; 10) Palmares 14.

EL SALVADOR : First Division (final round)

1) Luis Angel Firpo 5 points; 2) Alianza 4; 3) Atletico Marte 3; 4) Cojutepeque 1.

MEXICO : First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Group 1							
Puebla	31	16	10	5	49	30	42
Univ. Aut. Mexico	31	11	13	7	42	32	35
Monterrey	31	12	11	8	44	39	35
Irapuato	31	7	16	8	30	34	30
Morelia	31	10	8	13	35	37	28
Group 2							
Univ. Guadalajara	31	13	9	9	42	37	35
Toluca	31	8	14	9	30	24	30
Torreon	31	10	10	11	32	30	30
Cruz Azul	31	7	15	9	39	43	29
Atlante	31	7	8	16	28	42	22
Group 3							
America	31	13	13	5	55	35	39
Tamaulipas	31	12	8	11	27	30	32
Atlas	31	9	12	10	25	22	30
UNAG	31	7	14	10	34	38	28
Tampico-Madero	31	8	9	14	25	39	25
Group 4							
Necaxa	31	9	14	8	32	27	32
Univ. Nuevo Leon	31	11	10	10	53	54	32
Guadalajara	31	8	15	8	30	35	31
Ciudad Juarez	31	9	11	11	42	28	29
Veracruz	31	8	10	13	40	46	26

GUATEMALA : First Division (final round)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Municipal	6	3	3	0	12	5	9
Suchitepequez	6	3	3	0	10	4	9
Galcasa	6	3	2	1	8	3	8
Comunicaciones	6	2	0	4	2	6	4
Del Monte	6	1	1	4	4	10	3
Xelaju	6	1	1	4	4	12	3

COSTA RICA : First Division

1) Saprissa & Alajuelense 21 points; 3) San Carlos 16; 4) Puntarenas 15; 5) Herediano & Uruguay 14; 7) Guanacaste 11; 8) Limon & Cartago 10; 10) Palmares 8.

CHILE : First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Univ. Catolica	25	14	8	3	47	17	36
Colo Colo	25	16	4	5	49	25	36
Cobreloa	25	14	6	5	45	22	34
Dep. La Serena	25	9	12	4	35	17	30
Cobresal	25	10	9	6	39	28	29
O'Higgins	25	8	12	5	33	24	28
Dep. Concepcion	25	7	11	7	19	23	25
Union Espanola	25	6	10	9	36	41	22
Dep. Iquique	25	4	14	7	25	31	22
Naval	25	6	10	9	26	33	22
Union San Felipe	25	7	8	10	39	48	22
Everton	25	7	8	10	20	35	22
Fernandez Vial	25	5	10	10	28	34	20
Rangers	25	6	7	12	29	40	19
Huachipato	25	5	9	11	17	33	19
Dep. Valdivia	25	3	8	14	19	55	13

URUGUAY : Libertadores Cup playoff ("Liguilla") – final

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Penarol	5	2	2	1	8	4	6
Progreso	5	2	2	1	5	4	6
Defensor Sport	5	2	2	1	9	8	6
Bella Vista	5	3	0	2	7	7	6
Nacional	5	2	1	2	6	6	5
Cerro	5	0	1	4	3	9	1

(Top 4 to play off for two Libertadores Cup places as they finished level on points.)

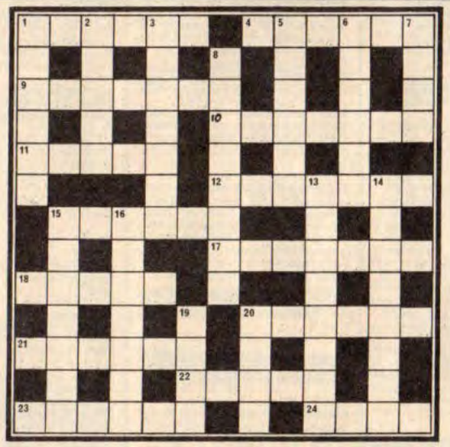
SOUTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL RECORDS – 1989

	PI.	HOME				AWAY				TOTAL				
		W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	%
BRAZIL	22	12	3	–	31	2	2	2	3	8	9	14	5	3	39	11	75
COLOMBIA	16	6	–	–	8	1	3	5	2	11	6	9	5	2	19	7	70
URUGUAY	17	4	2	–	10	3	5	2	4	15	6	9	4	4	25	9	65
CHILE	19	3	2	–	11	4	5	3	6	14	14	8	5	6	25	18	55
PARAGUAY	19	3	1	–	7	3	5	4	6	19	23	8	5	6	26	26	55
ARGENTINA	11	–	–	–	–	–	2	6	3	5	8	2	6	3	5	8	45
ECUADOR	14	2	3	–	7	4	1	2	6	5	12	3	5	6	12	16	40
BOLIVIA	14	3	1	1	7	5	1	2	6	3	16	4	3	7	10	21	39
PERU	19	1	1	2	4	6	1	5	9	12	28	2	6	11	16	34	26
VENEZUELA	12	1	1	3	5	10	–	1	6	5	24	1	2	9	10	34	17

ITALIA '90 WINNERS

ITALIA 90 WINNERS CONGRATULATIONS to the following readers who are winners of our ITALIA 90 competition featured in the March issue.
First Prize of Italia 90 football, umbrella, lapel badge, tie, sweater and key ring goes to Allan Randall, of Gee Cross, Hyde, Cheshire.
Second prize (umbrella, tie, lapel badge, and key ring) to Ian Cuthbert, North Muirton, Perth, Scotland.
25 runners-up receive lapel badge and key ring.
They are Roberto Adrados, Madrid, Spain; Nigel Warner, Cromer, Norfolk; Sean Heagney, Limerick City, Ireland; Martin Golen, Brackley, Northants; John Harvey, Northallerton, North Yorkshire; John Watson, Old Lyme, Ct. USA; Mark McCluskie, Ayrshire; Matthew Stocker, Shobdon, Herts; Fredi Libs, Ludkeweg 38, Berlin 48, W.Germany; Ben Hayes, Norwood, London SE19 2RS; Christian Jenkinson, Rhyl, Chwyd;S. Kalar, Rainham, Essex; T.Simmons, Coventry; R. Sala, Singapore; B. Hinds, Brisbane, Australia; C. Grit, Harrogate, Yorks; Mark Arthur, Shrewsbury; Ian Walters, Chichester, Sussex; Christine Baldock, Colchester, Essex; Peter King, Rutherglen, Glasgow; M. McEwan, Aberdeen; Steve Houghton, Bolton, Lancs; J.A. Smith, Torquay;Gerald Stuart, Edinburgh.
They and hundreds more WORLD SOCCER readers identified Oscar Ruggeri of Real Madrid and Argentina correctly

WORLD SOCCER CROSSWORD Compiled by Barry Talbot



Across

1 Ex Q.P.R. and Scotland midfield star.
4 Legia ----.
9 Chris, former Coventry stalwart.
10 Manager who led Sunderland to the 1985 League Cup Final.
11 London soccer dynasty.
12 British manager abroad.
15 Italian league side.
17 Top team from the Soviet Union.
18 Former Middlesbrough Irish international goalkeeper.
20 Nickname of Reading F.C.
21 Legendary goalkeeper.
22 Top current international goalkeeper.
23 Star player from Paraguay.
24 Portuguese striker of the seventies.

DOWN

1 1967 F.A. Cup winning captain.
2 Hugo, member of Peru's 1970 World Cup side.
3 Brazilian defender in the 1958 and 1966 World Cup Finals.
5 Danish league side.
6 Common to Prague and Rotterdam.
7 Everton keeper in the 1966 F.A. Cup Final.
8 Former Juventus and Italy forward.
13 Sunderland defender.
14 Scored two goals in the 1968 European Cup Final.
15 Argentinian scorer in the 1986 World Cup Final.
16 Top Second Division striker.
19 Forename of Italy's World Cup winning manager.
20 One of the Van De Kerkoff brothers.

APRIL SOLUTION

DOWN: 1. Vasco. 2. Gallego. 3. Santana. 4. Fischer. 5. Romeo. 6. Theshots. 7. Roma. 13. Platini. 14. Reading. 16. Everton. 17. Rapide. 18. Oviedo. 21. Ards.
ACROSS: 1. Vogts. 4. Forster. 8. Salinas. 9. Chelsea. 10. Overath. 11. Roda. 12. Spora. 15. Rep. 18. Oslo. 19. Dagama. 20. Partizan. 22. Vicini. 23. Ord. 24. Gigg. 25. Orsi.

FREE

with next month's new-look, more exciting, more colourful

WORLD SOCCER

Eight more colour cards of a specially drawn collection of World Cup Heroes to be inserted in the 60 Glorious Years booklet.

There will be eight more cards Free with the July issue to complete a superb line-up.

Also in the June ITALIA '90 EXTRA-SPECIAL ISSUE

The new WORLD SOCCER is a world-beater and still only £1.25p

ORDER YOUR COPY NOW!

* A complete programme to kick-off the 1990 World Cup Finals.
* Up-date on all the 24 competing nations.
* TV guide to the games and venues.
* Latest squad news.
* Colour action from the three European Cup Finals ... with full reports and statistics.

There's no need to miss a single issue of WORLD SOCCER

To: Computer Action Ltd., Central House, 27 Park Street, Croydon CR0 1YD, England
Please send me WORLD SOCCER for the next year – 12 issues.

Name
Address
Country

WS MAY

Cheques/money orders payable to WORLD SOCCER)

Subscription details: All rates for 12 issues – one year – and include postage.
AIRMAIL. UK £18. EUROPE £24. MIDDLE EAST £28. W. INDIES/AMERICA & AFRICA £29. USA $45. AUSTRALIA & FAR EAST £30.

Complete the coupon and send to: Computer Action Ltd., Central House, 27 Park Street, Croydon, CR0 1YD, England.
Make cheques and money orders payable to WORLD SOCCER.

FREE

with next month's new-look, more exciting, more colourful

WORLD SOCCER

Eight more colour cards of a specially drawn collection of World Cup Heroes to be inserted in the 60 Glorious Years booklet.

There will be eight more cards Free with the July issue to complete a superb line-up.

Also in the June ITALIA '90 EXTRA-SPECIAL ISSUE

* A complete programme to kick-off the 1990 World Cup Finals.
* Up-date on all the 24 competing nations.
* TV guide to the games and venues.
* Latest squad news.
* Colour action from the three European Cup Finals ... with full reports and statistics.

The new WORLD SOCCER is a world-beater and still only £1.25p

ORDER YOUR COPY NOW!

Subscription details: All rates for 12 issues – one year – and include postage.
AIRMAIL. UK £18. EUROPE £24. MIDDLE EAST £28. W. INDIES/AMERICA & AFRICA £29. USA $45. AUSTRALIA & FAR EAST £30.

Complete the coupon and send to:
Computer Action Ltd., Central House, 27 Park Street, Croydon, CR0 1YD, England.
Make cheques and money orders payable to WORLD SOCCER.

There's no need to miss a single issue of

WORLD SOCCER

To: Computer Action Ltd., Central House, 27 Park Street, Croydon CR0 1YD, England
Please send me WORLD SOCCER for the next year – 12 issues.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Country .....

WS MAY

Cheques/money orders payable to WORLD SOCCER)

WORLD CUP

ENGLAND

CLUBCALL

0898 12 11 96

SCOTLAND

CLUBCALL

0898 12 16 81

☎ Live match commentary and match reports. Team selections and other news from the World Cup squad, 24 hours EVERY day. ☎ It's all on Clubcall, the official FA telephone information service. And you can catch up on all the latest news from your favourite league clubs. ☎ These are the OFFICIAL club telephone information services. ☎ Updated daily. ☎ Phone your Clubcall now. ☎ Clubcall 24 hours every day.

Dial 0898 121 – then the number you want:

ALDERSHOT	630	GILLINGHAM	107	SHREWSBURY TOWN	194
ARSENAL	170	GRIMSBY TOWN	576	SOUTHAMPTON	178
ASTON VILLA	148	HARTLEPOOL UNITED	147	STOCKPORT COUNTY	638
BARNSLEY	152	HEREFORD UNITED	645	SUNDERLAND	140
BIRMINGHAM CITY	188	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN	635	SWANSEA CITY	639
BLACKBURN ROVERS	179	LEEDS UNITED	180	SWINDON TOWN	640
BLACKPOOL	648	LEICESTER CITY	185	TORQUAY UNITED	641
BOLTON WANDERERS	164	LEYTON ORIENT	150	TRANMERE ROVERS	646
BOURNEMOUTH	163	LINCOLN CITY	889	WALSALL	104
BRENTFORD	108	LIVERPOOL	184	W.B.A.	193
BRISTOL CITY	176	MANCHESTER CITY	191	WEST HAM UNITED	165
BRISTOL ROVERS	631	MANCHESTER UNITED	161	WIMBLEDON	175
BURNLEY	153	MIDDLESBROUGH	181	WOLVES	103
BURY	197	MILLWALL	143	WREXHAM	642
CAMBRIDGE UNITED	141	NEWCASTLE UNITED	190	YORK CITY	643
CARDIFF CITY	171	NORWICH CITY	144		
CARLISLE UNITED	632	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	174	ABERDEEN	551
CHARLTON ATHLETIC	146	NOTTS COUNTY	101	AYR UNITED	552
CHELSEA	159	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	142	CELTIC	888
CHESTER CITY	633	OXFORD UNITED	172	DUNDEE	649
CHESTERFIELD	573	PETERBOROUGH UNITED	654	DUNFERMLINE ATHLETIC	556
COVENTRY CITY	166	PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	688	FALKIRK	554
CREWE ALEXANDRA	647	PORTSMOUTH	182	HEARTS	183
CRYSTAL PALACE	145	PORT VALE	636	HIBS	189
DARLINGTON	149	PRESTON NORTH END	173	KILMARNOCK	557
DERBY COUNTY	187	Q.P.R.	162	MOTHERWELL	553
DONCASTER ROVERS	651	ROTHERHAM UNITED	637	RANGERS	555
EVERTON	199	SCARBOROUGH	650	WALES CLUBCALL	682
EXETER CITY	634	SCUNTHORPE UNITED	652		
FULHAM	198	SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY	186	DERRY CITY	558

Calls are charged 25p/min off-peak and 38p/min peak including VAT

Other Supercall services include:
CRICKETCALL – International and County cricket commentary and information. Call Cricketcall Index on 0898 12 14 10.
TURFCALL – Horse racing live commentary and information. Call 0898 121 121.
For details of many other services covering the world of sport, call the Supercall Sport Index on 0898 12 11 10.

SUPERCALL

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A COLOUR LAMINATED TEAM CARD WITH YOUR TEAM CLUBCALL NUMBER AND OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION: JUST FILL IN THE COUPON AND SEND WITH S.A.E. TO:- DEPARTMENT W-S 1-9 DOWNHAM ROAD, LONDON N1 5AA

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

YOUR TEAM: _____ POSTCODE _____

WC101